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TEAM-TABS**

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to complete our League Ladders**

SHOOT!

20p

8th SEPTEMBER, 1979

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JOE JORDAN
Manchester United

Jim McDonagh's BIG CHALLENGE

JIM McDonagh, Bolton's ace goalkeeper, is determined to mount a firm challenge on England's top trio of Clemence, Shilton and Corrigan this season.

Yet the 25-year-old Rotherham born goalie could well have made his international debut for the Republic of Ireland, but for a second-half appearance for the Eng-

land Youth team in a friendly international against Spain in 1971.

Says Jim: "I told the Irish F.A. that I'd played for the England Youth and I wasn't qualified, but they said there was a chance and they followed it to the end.

"They probably saw the Irish name McDonagh popping up all the time and were keen for a 'keeper."

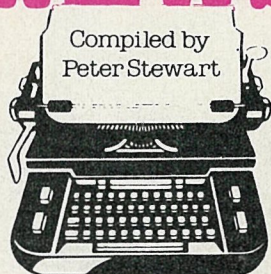
Does Jim regret playing in the friendly which disqualified him from playing for Eire? "It was very tempting when it arose," he admits. "Both of my parents are Irish and I was getting a little dismayed with the England set up.

"But last season was my first in the top flight and there are a lot of good English goalkeepers about. I prefer now to try my hardest in the hopes of being selected for the England 'B' team, and taking it from there."



NEWS

Compiled by
Peter Stewart



DESK

SCOTTISH Second Division club Meadowbank Thistle have a thriving Supporters' club in London. Any Edinburgh exiles wishing to join can do so by writing to Murray L. Sakwhyde, Secretary, Meadowbank Thistle F.C. London Supporters, 2 Rodney Close, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1NS. And please enclose a s.a.e.

ACADEMIC HIBS

HIBS are going "academic" these days! After signing Colin Campbell from Edinburgh University they've fixed up his team-mate, 20-year-old Derek Rodier a chemistry student who scored 28 goals for the University side last season in the East of Scotland League.

Former Hearts full-back, Jim Brown, who also signed for Hibs during the close season, did an Open University course while at Tynecastle.

DUNCAN Gibson, a former Aberdeen player, is the first commercial manager of Middlesbrough. Gibson, who was connected with Sunderland for a number of years, says: "I am thrilled to join Middlesbrough at an exciting stage of their development."

Middlesbrough have ambitious plans on and off the field. They have splashed out a record club fee on Newcastle United defender Irving Natrass, built new dressing rooms, and will open a new Sports Hall and Gymnasium before the end of the year.

THE Scottish League will play the Irish League, in Belfast, during 1979-80. Irish F.A. officials are viewing the fixture as a prelude to a full international return of the Scots, in 1980. Last time Scotland appeared at top level in the Ulster capital was in a 1-0 1970 British Championship victory over the Irish.

FACTastic

WHEN did you last see a goal scored direct from the corner-flag? Maybe never. The number of goals scored in that way during any season can be counted on the fingers of one hand. Yet in a Second Division match in March, 1932, at Meadow Lane, Nottingham, twice the ball beat the opposing goalie direct from a corner-kick — Harold Andrews did it for Notts County and Sam Hopkinson for Manchester United.

FORMER Hearts idol Tommy Walker, now a director with the club, has unanimously been elected vice-chairman. Tommy played for Hearts before and after the Second World War, had a spell with Chelsea, and was also Hearts manager for a time. He is also a former Scottish international.

● **JOHN** Pickering, the ex-Blackburn Rovers boss, has joined the staff of Bolton as technical-coach.

● It means that the Burnden Park club kicked off the season with a manager, Ian Greaves, and three former managers — Stan Anderson, assistant-manager, formerly with Doncaster and Walter Joyce, coach, ex-Huddersfield and Rochdale.

MARK Harrison, an 18-year-old goalkeeper, is hoping it's going to be a case of third time lucky.

Not wanted by his local club, Derby, he was allowed to leave Nottingham Forest and is now in his first full season as a professional with Southampton.

Dowd Latest Irish Rover

NORTHERN Ireland central-defender Hugh Dowd's £15,000 pre-season switch from Sheffield Wednesday to Billy Bremner-bossed Doncaster Rovers restored already strong Belle Vue-Emerald Isle links.

Back in 1949-50, legendary Irish ace Peter Doherty player-managed Rovers to the Championship of the Third Division (North), hitting 26 League goals in the process to finish joint-top Divisional marksman.

Two other notable records were established by Doncaster Ulstermen, defender Len Graham's 14 full Irish caps, between 1951 and 1958, being an all-time international total for a Rovers' star, and goalkeeper Harry Gregg's £23,000 December, 1957, transfer to pre-Munich Manchester United was then a record sale for a British 'keeper.

Other post-War Irish caps to make an impact at Doncaster included strikers Eddie McMorran and Jimmy Walker. Now, lofty pivot Dowd follows in the illustrious line of the Belle Vue Irish.

A real Skolar

MANCHESTER City's trainer, Roy Bailey, turned out to be the hero in the pre-season Skol Festival tournament held in Edinburgh.

It happened after a clash between Hibs centre-forward Colin Campbell and City's goalkeeper Joe Corrigan. When Campbell fell to the ground unconscious he apparently swallowed his tongue and was choking until Bailey, who had come on to assist Hibs trainer John Lambie, managed to clear the young Hibs player's throat at the second attempt. Campbell was taken to hospital and detained overnight.

MICK Kearns, the Eire goalkeeper, turned down an offer to play in America this summer — and he is delighted he made this decision.

Reason? He has now moved from Fourth Division Walsall to First Division Wolves for a £20,000 fee.

Kearns had been on the transfer list for some time after losing his place to Ian Turner. Now he is looking forward to the challenge of trying to win a first team spot at Molineux.

Old Pals Act

THERE was a touch of the old pals act when Aston Villa signed 21-year-old Terry Donovan from Grimsby Town for £75,000.

Ron Saunders, Aston Villa's manager, and Terry's father, Don, were colleagues at Everton a few years ago. Saunders said: "I'm pleased to have signed Terry because he is a player with a lot of potential."

Donovan, a former England school-boy international, was out of action for a long spell last season because of tendon trouble but he is now fully fit.

If he makes 40 first team appearances for Villa then his old club, Grimsby, will pick up an additional £75,000.

President Courtney

FIFA referee George Courtney, in charge of the Arsenal-Liverpool F.A. Charity Shield game, began his career as a "whistler" in the Bishop Auckland Junior League. The League has now honoured the County Durham school-teacher — by inviting him to be president.



CHARLTON striker Derek Hales and his wife Carole produced a "winner" recently with the birth of their son Danny



THE DEFENDERS

THEY'RE certainly curvier than the average defensive wall. But this back-four aren't really shaping up to wear an England shirt just yet.

The girls, television hostesses Laura Beamont, Christine Owen, Sophie Batchelor and Eunice Denny, are too busy getting in trim for the next Sale of the Century ... a show they'd defend to the last.

FOLLOWING IN PHIL'S FOOTSTEPS?

BRIERLEY Hill F.C., the non-League team from the West Midlands who produced West Ham and England goalkeeper Phil Parkes, reckon they have another winner between the sticks. A string of fine performances by young Andy Crannage has already attracted the interest of Cardiff City, West Bromwich and Parke's first League club Walsall.

THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY ... that could be Gordon Taylor who got a free transfer from Everton last season because he was "homesick". He returned to Scotland and both Celtic and Rangers were interested before the persuasive tongue of Bertie Auld took the left-winger to Partick Thistle.

Partick Thistle had a close season tour of Canada, playing three games, winning all three, scoring 12 goals and losing none ... and Auld rated Taylor as "the find of the tour". Looks like the boy has a big future in front of him and a lot of bewildered defenders to leave behind him!

STEVE Convey, the young Leicester left-back — he was only 18 last December — certainly knows his way around.

Before joining the Filbert Street club he had trials with Sunderland, Aston Villa and Coventry.

Belfast-born, he has played for Northern Ireland Youth against Eire, has lived in England for the past six years, but his family now live in Scotland, where his father has a pub!

THE Dundee teams will provide the two oldest goalkeepers in the Scottish Premier Division this season. Dundee United's new signing, Peter Bonetti is 37-years-of-age, while Dundee's Ally Donaldson is 35.



NEW BLUES

WHAT a coincidence. In 1966 Don Dorman, Birmingham City's chief scout, signed two young players, Trevor Francis and Steve Phillips.

A few weeks ago the ace Birmingham talent spotter signed another two young players with the names of Francis and Phillips.

Dorman, a former Birmingham City player, said: "I am only hoping that the two latest players turn out to be as good as the other two."

Both lads come from London. Carlos Francis (right) is from the East End and Les Phillips is from Brixton.

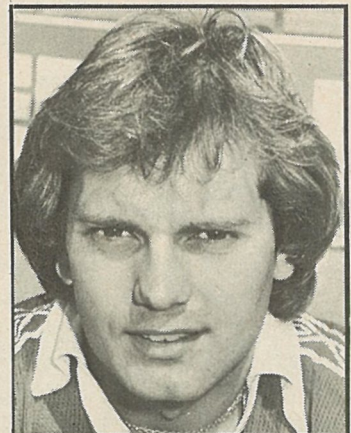
Francis, who had trials with Chelsea last season, has already impressed Birmingham officials with his speed and ball control.

So much so that he was on the verge of making his first team debut in the pre-season game against Bristol City at St. Andrews.

MORE PRE-SEASON TRANSFERS

John Anderson (West Brom. to Preston)
Radojka Aramovic (Yugoslavia to Notts Co.)
Phil Beal (ex-Spurs & Brighton to Crewe)
Barry Butlin (Peterborough to Sheff. Utd.)
Andy Crawford (Rotherham to Chesterfield)
Martin Dobson (Everton to Burnley)
Bobby Doyle (Peterborough to Blackpool)
Ray Evans (Fulham to Stoke C.)
Mike Flanagan (Charlton to Crystal Pal.)
Archie Gemmill (Nottm. For. to Birmingham)
Tony Grealish (Orient to Luton)
Ricky Heppollette (Chesterfield to Peterborough)
John Jackson (Orient to Millwall)
Ivan Katalinic (Hajduk Split to West Brom)
Jeff King (Walsall to Sheff. Wed.)
Tony Knight (Dover to Brighton)
John McDowell (West Ham to Norwich)
Irving Natrass (Newcastle to Middlesbrough)
Stuart Pearson (Man. Utd. to West Ham)
Garry Pendrey (Birmingham to Wolves)
John Ridley (Leicester to Chesterfield)
Garry Stanley (Chelsea to Everton)
Brian Smith (Bolton to Blackpool)

FORMER Drogheda defender John Herrick, has been appointed manager of Galway Rovers. Herrick had previous managerial experience at Limerick.



RAY STAYS

I'VE left Chelsea for Manchester United, but I'm pleased to say that's my only transfer. I'll be staying with the "team" I've been with for the past two seasons — the one that's topped its League every year ... SHOOT.

Gordon McQueen and I will be teaming up to bring you regular news from Old Trafford — and in my column next week I'll be talking about my move to United.

Same Name — Different League

OXFORD United are competing in the Northern Ireland Intermediate League.

But, before you thousands of SHOOT readers, and particularly Manor Ground fans, reach for your pens to tell us we've got it wrong, let us explain straight away that it is not the prominent Third Division outfit to which we are referring, but, instead, Oxford United Stars, from the Derry area, in North-West Ulster.

MY LAST NEWSDESK ...

FROM next week Assistant Editor Bill Day, well-known and respected in Fleet Street, will be taking over NEWS DESK. I've enjoyed compiling this popular feature over the past eight years and have made many friends and contacts within the game. My thanks to them and all you readers for your support during that time.

Peter Stewart

Editor.

NOBBY

I'M NOT HAGGLING OVER WAGES, BOSS



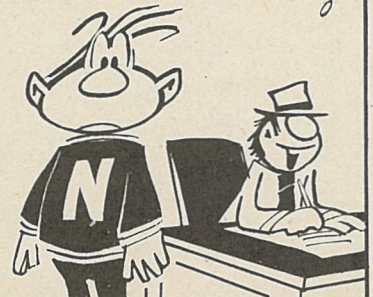
JUST PAY ME WHAT I'M WORTH



I'D LOVE TO, BUT THE BOARD WOULDN'T LIKE IT



THEY DON'T THINK ANYBODY SHOULD WORK FOR NOTHING!



ENGLAND... PORTUGAL... SPAIN... HOLLAND... CZECHOSLOVAKIA... GREECE... WEST GERMANY... ITALY... set for the Finals



England (white shirts) head their group on goal difference, thanks to their 4-0 drubbing of Northern Ireland.

Of the eight European Championship Finalists next summer, four teams will probably be countries who weren't in the 1978 World Cup Finals, an indication of the changing fortunes in football. Bar a major upset, England and Spain will definitely be there. Portugal, with a game in hand and home games to come, look a good bet, as do Holland and Czechoslovakia. Sadly for Wales, West Germany will probably be too strong for them, while Italy qualify as hosts. Greece are the surprise side in a group that has seen some remarkable results.



Wales (dark strip) face a tough task to qualify at the expense of West Germany.

Group 1

24. 5.78	Denmark 3, Eire 3
20. 9.78	Eire 0, N. Ireland 0
20. 9.78	Denmark 3, England 4
11.10.78	Denmark 2, Bulgaria 2
25.10.78	Eire 1, England 1
25.10.78	N. Ireland 2, Denmark 1
29.11.78	Bulgaria 0, N. Ireland 2
7. 2.79	England 4, N. Ireland 0
2. 5.79	Eire 2, Denmark 0
2. 5.79	N. Ireland 2, Bulgaria 0
23. 5.79	Bulgaria 1, Eire 0
6. 6.79	Bulgaria 0, England 3
6. 6.79	Denmark 4, N. Ireland 0

	P	W	D	L	F	AGD	Pts
England	4	3	1	0	12	4+8	7
N. Ireland	6	3	1	2	6	9-3	7
Eire	5	1	3	1	6	5+1	5
Denmark	6	1	2	3	13	13-4	4
Bulgaria	5	1	1	3	3	9-6	3

12. 9.79	England v Denmark
17.10.79	Eire v Bulgaria
17.10.79	N. Ireland v England
31.10.79	Bulgaria v Denmark
21.11.79	England v Bulgaria
21.11.79	N. Ireland v Eire
6. 2.80	England v Eire

Group 2

30. 8.78	Norway 0, Austria 2
20. 9.78	Belgium 1, Norway 1
20. 9.78	Austria 3, Scotland 2
11.10.78	Portugal 1, Belgium 1
25.10.78	Scotland 3, Norway 2
15.11.78	Austria 1, Portugal 2
29.11.78	Portugal 1, Scotland 0
7. 2.79	Scotland v Belgium (post.)
28. 3.79	Belgium 1, Austria 1
2. 5.79	Austria 0, Belgium 0
9. 5.79	Norway 0, Portugal 1
9. 5.79	Norway 0, Scotland 4

	P	W	D	L	F	AGD	Pts
Portugal	4	3	1	0	5	2+3	7
Austria	5	2	2	1	7	5+2	6
Scotland	4	2	0	2	9	6+3	4
Belgium	4	0	4	0	3	3-4	4
Norway	5	0	1	4	3	11-8	1

20. 8.79	Austria v Norway
12. 9.79	Norway v Belgium
17.10.79	Belgium v Portugal
17.10.79	Scotland v Austria
1.11.79	Portugal v Norway
21.11.79	Belgium v Scotland
21.11.79	Portugal v Austria
19.12.79	Scotland v Belgium
6. 2.80	Scotland v Portugal

Group 3

4.10.78	Yugoslavia 1, Spain 2
25.10.78	Rumania 3, Yugoslavia 2
15.11.78	Spain 1, Rumania 0
13.12.78	Spain 5, Cyprus 0
1. 4.79	Cyprus 0, Yugoslavia 3
4. 4.79	Rumania 2, Spain 2
13. 5.79	Cyprus 1, Rumania 1

	P	W	D	L	F	AGD	Pts
Spain	4	3	1	0	10	3+7	7
Rumania	4	1	2	1	6	6-4	4
Yugoslavia	3	1	0	2	6	5+1	2
Cyprus	3	0	1	2	1	9-8	1

10.10.79	Spain v Yugoslavia
31.10.79	Yugoslavia v Rumania
14.11.79	Yugoslavia v Cyprus
18.11.79	Rumania v Cyprus
9.12.79	Cyprus v Spain

Group 4

6. 9.78	Ireland 0, Poland 2
20. 9.78	Holland 3, Ireland 0
4.10.78	E. Germany 3, Iceland 1
11.10.78	Switzerland 1, Holland 3

15.11.78	Holland 3, E. Germany 0
15.11.78	Poland 2, Switzerland 0
28. 3.79	Holland 3, Switzerland 0
18. 4.79	E. Germany 2, Poland 1
2. 5.79	Poland 2, Holland 0
5. 5.79	Switzerland 0, East Germany 2
22. 5.79	Switzerland 2, Iceland 0
9. 6.79	Iceland 1, Switzerland 2

	P	W	D	L	F	AGD	Pts
Holland	5	4	0	1	12	3+9	8
Poland	4	3	0	1	7	2+5	6
E. Germany	4	3	0	1	7	5+2	6
Switzerland	6	2	0	4	5	11-6	4
Iceland	5	0	0	5	2	12-10	0

5. 9.79	Iceland v Holland
12. 9.79	Iceland v E. Germany
12. 9.79	Switzerland v Poland
26. 9.79	Poland v E. Germany
10.10.79	Poland v Iceland
13.10.79	E. Germany v Switzerland
17.10.79	Holland v Poland
21.11.79	E. Germany v Holland

Group 5

1. 9.78	France 2, Sweden 2
4.10.78	Sweden 1, Czechoslovakia 3
7.10.78	Luxembourg 1, France 3
25. 2.79	France 3, Luxembourg 0
4. 4.79	Czechoslovakia 2, France 0
1. 5.79	Luxembourg 0, Czechoslovakia 3
7. 6.79	Sweden 3, Luxembourg 0

	P	W	D	L	F	AGD	Pts
Czechoslovakia	3	3	0	0	8	1+7	6
France	4	2	1	1	8	5+3	5
Sweden	3	1	1	1	6	5+1	3
Luxembourg	4	0	0	4	1	12-11	0

5. 9.79	Sweden v. France
10.10.79	Czechoslovakia v. Sweden
23.10.79	Luxembourg v. Sweden
17.11.79	France v. Czechoslovakia
24.11.79	Czechoslovakia v. Luxembour

Group 6

24. 5.78	Finland 3, Greece 0
20. 9.78	Finland 2, Hungary 1
20. 9.78	U.S.S.R. 2, Greece 0
11.10.78	Hungary 2, U.S.S.R. 0
11.10.78	Greece 8, Finland 1
29.10.78	Greece 4, Hungary 1
2. 5.79	Hungary 0, Greece 0
19. 5.79	U.S.S.R. 2, Hungary 2
4. 7.79	Finland 1, U.S.S.R. 1

	P	W	D	L	F	AGD	Pts
Greece	5	2	1	2	12	7+5	5
Finland	4	2	1	1	7	10+3	5
U.S.S.R.	4	1	2	1	5	5-4	4
Hungary	5	1	2	2	6	8-2	4

12. 9.79	Greece v. U.S.S.R.
17.10.79	Hungary v. Finland
31.10.79	U.S.S.R. v. Finland

Group 7

25.10.78	Wales 7, Malta 0
29.11.78	Wales 1, Turkey 0
25. 2.79	Malta 0, W. Germany 0
18. 3.79	Turkey 2, Malta 1
1. 4.79	Turkey 0, W. Germany 0
2. 5.79	Wales 0, W. Germany 2
2. 6.79	Malta 0, Wales 2

	P	W	D	L	F	AGD	Pts
Wales	4	3	0	1	10	2+8	6
W. Germany	3	1	2	0	2	0+2	4
Turkey	3	1	1	1	2	2-3	3
Malta	4	0	1	3	1	11-10	1

17.10.79	W. Germany v. Wales
28.10.79	Malta v. Turkey
21.11.79	Turkey v. Wales
22.12.79	W. Germany v. Turkey
27. 2.80	W. Germany v. Malta

These balls are endorsed by two of the biggest names in the game.

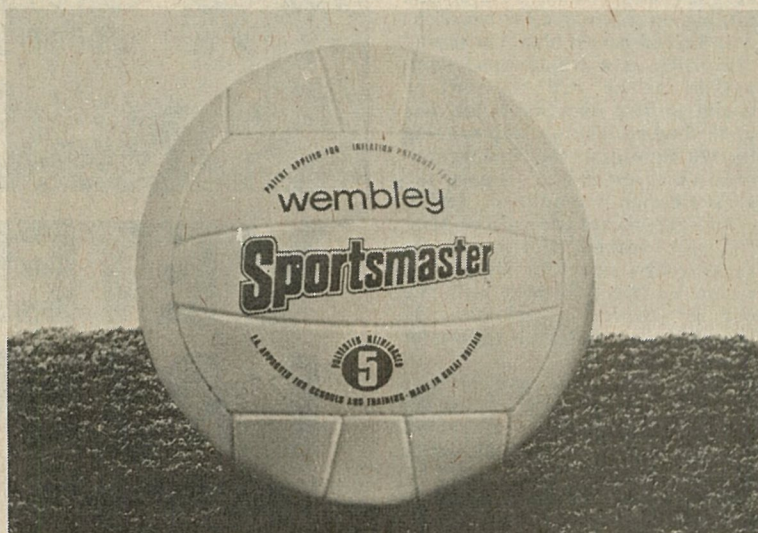


These balls are endorsed for schools and training by the two bodies that control the game. The Football Association and FIFA.

Which you may think is nothing special until you discover that the balls in question are not leather but moulded.

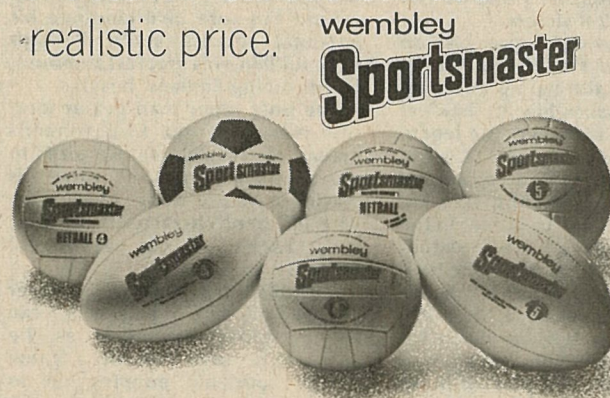
Even more surprising, they behave the same as a leather ball. They bounce the same. They're the regulation size and weight. They even fly the same.

In fact, in many ways they're better than leather. They won't scuff if you kick them about



on concrete. They don't go solid when it's cold. And the valve can be changed or punctures repaired on the field if necessary.

The 32 panel ball comes in three sizes and the 18 panel in two. And the price comes as a relief. The Wembley Sportsmaster. A realistic ball at a realistic price.



Wembley Sportsmaster Ltd, 14 Harlestone Road, Northampton.

ONE reason it's harder for young talent to break through into the first teams in the top flight is because there are more players over 30 now still holding their places and refusing to make way.

These "veterans" may have lost some of their speed and agility, but they more than compensate with their experience and dedication.

Two immediately come to mind. Both men who played star parts in helping England to achieve the ultimate honour in the global game — winning the World Cup at Wembley in 1966. I'm referring, of course, to Alan Ball, who now plays for Southampton, the team we meet away at The Dell this Saturday in the League; and Martin Peters, still turning on the magic for Norwich.

Little, red-haired Alan, christened "Fireball", is a tremendous competitor, as he first showed the World on that memorable July day in 1966 when his non-stop running for 120 minutes — the Final went to extra-time remember — gave the West German defenders no rest.

I'll never forget the sight of Alan, red shirt soaked with sweat, his socks rolled down to his ankles, racing up the right-wing with the ball, or waving his freckled fist to urge his team-mates on to greater efforts.

Alan always gives one 100 per cent plus, and has such fanatical will to win he inspires those about him. No one ever dares to slack under his leadership.

Everton, the team he moved to from Blackpool, have never adequately replaced Ballie, who in 1970 led them to their last major honour — the First Division Championship. Alan, with Colin Harvey and Howard Kendall, formed one of the sweetest-moving midfields our game has ever seen.

Their passing was brilliant and tore many a defence to shreds. The only criticism I've ever heard of them was that they were too short. But there's no such thing as perfection in football.

Qualities

Alan is so competitive I'm told he threw away his loser's medal after Everton lost the F.A. Cup Final by 1-0 to West Brom in 1968.

The first time I played against him was at Anfield, in the season I began to establish myself, and Alan showed all his qualities to drive The Blues on to a 2-0 victory.

Our fans used to give him so much stick — in fact, they still do — but abuse has the wrong effect on Alan. It just makes him try harder!

Our former manager, the legendary Bill Shanks, is still a great friend of his, and I suspect wanted to put him in a red shirt. But that would have caused an uproar in the city, as no player of Alan's stature would be allowed to move the half-mile from Stanley Park to Anfield.

It was still, however, a big shock to me when he left Goodison for Arsenal, the only club down South that can compare with the Northern leading lights for glamour and tradition.

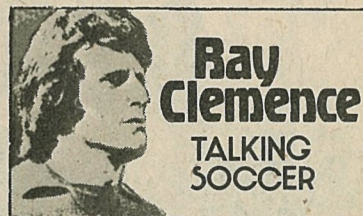
Unfortunately, The Gunners were in decline after winning the Double of 1971, and despite all his efforts

Pat Jennings dives at the feet of Alan Hansen to halt a Liverpool attack at Highbury last season.



'Pat Jennings has started a second career with Arsenal'

VETERANS I ADMIRE



the London club failed to win a single honour while he was with them.

The astute Lawrie McMenemy snapped him up after Terry Neill took over at Highbury, to help rebuild the Southampton team and get them out of the Second Division.

Of course, I played with Alan for England, several times under his captaincy, and benefited from his custom of always buying a bottle of champagne after a player had made his international debut.

I agree with those who say his career with England ended too soon. He still had a lot to contribute when Don Revie suddenly axed him from the squad. For Alan was not only an asset on the field, but off it too, with his bubbling sense of humour and never-say-die spirit.

When he does eventually hang up his boots, he's certain to go into management — with a League club — and I'm sure he'll continue his personal success story. Perhaps even fulfilling his greatest ambition, by becoming England boss!

The only other man in our football with a World Cup winner's medal, Martin Peters, also plans to move into a "hot seat" when his playing days are done. Martin is a very different character from Alan, just as likeable and competitive, but far more quiet.

A midfielder man, Martin has never changed his style of play, which can be deceptive inasmuch as he appears to drift out of a game before suddenly popping up to score a great goal. For this reason he was nicknamed "The Ghost".

Two seasons ago he scored a tremendous goal against Liverpool. Phil Neal headed the ball clear. It

was 20 yards out when Martin connected with a blistering volley that flew past my right hand and into the net.

He looks well set for another playing season at Norwich so I'll be facing him on at least two more occasions.

West Brom still rely on two "old faithfuls" — skipper John Wile and Tony Brown — to give stability to a side that contains so much promising young talent. They've seen just about every situation that can arise in a game and know how to deal with it.

John Wile is a great club man who has dedicated himself unselfishly to West Brom, even filling in as player-manager between Johnny Giles's departure and the arrival of Ronnie Allen.

Blood-soaked

One of his many qualities is his courage, as he showed during the 1978 F.A. Cup Semi-Final at Highbury against Ipswich when, after colliding with Brian Talbot, he returned with a blood-soaked bandage covering a severe head wound to continue to lead his side in an unavailing fight to avoid defeat.

Tony Brown, who has been around The Hawthorns so long he qualifies for a second testimonial — a very rare event — is still capable of getting more than his share of goals even though dropping back from striker to midfield.

I particularly admire 'Bomber' for the way he's able to continue to motivate himself. It's something long-service players often find extremely difficult to do. Usually they need the stimulus of a move to another club, which brings a com-

plete change of environment.

This is what has happened to John Hollins, who switched from Q.P.R. to Arsenal during the close season and played his first important game during the Charity Shield game at Wembley, which we won 3-1.

John is another full-hearted player who couldn't cheat if he tried. I got to know him in my first Under-23 game for England, when I was a "new boy" at Liverpool and he was starting to make his name at Chelsea.

He's another dressing-room character who can help create team spirit with his infectious humour. He does the best Peter Cook and Dudley Moore impersonations I've ever heard!

One of the reasons I'm pleased to see Stoke back in the First Division is it gives their Denis Smith another chance to display his gritty talents to larger crowds.

Denis is an all-action player without a nerve in his body. "Caution" means nothing to him. He'd face a charge of wild elephants if it was important to the cause of Stoke City!

He's a mass of stitch-marks and mended bones, and has collected so many injuries in Stoke's service, I don't think he's ever yet finished a season with an ever-present record.

Denis is definitely the type of centre-half I prefer to have in front of me.

Despite all the trouble and turmoil at Leeds since the departure of Don Revie in 1974, one player has held his place — the man for all seasons and all managers, Paul Madeley.

I've known Paul both as an opponent with a club that was Liverpool's biggest rival for many seasons, and

'Alan Ball won a World Cup medal in 1966 — and is still playing great football'

as a team-mate with England; and never once has he done anything, on or off the field, that has diminished my respect for him.

Paul is another of the quiet, modest kind; never raising his voice or a fist.

When on duty for England he kept very much to himself. Usually he had his head in a book between training and playing. Or else he was in his room on the phone directing the business of his successful chain of paint shops.

Although his international days are over, Paul still carries the stamp of a world class player.

Goalkeepers, I'm glad to say, tend to last longer than outfield players, probably because they're not called upon to do the running.

Arsenal's Pat Jennings is a man whose praises I've sung many times in my column, and I make no excuse for giving him another mention. Pat has been around a long time, completing a stint with Spurs in which he earned many honours and which would satisfy most other 'keepers as a complete career.

Yet Pat moved across North London to start almost afresh with Arsenal and has begun another collection of trophies with an F.A. Cup winner's medal last May.

Pat's trademark is his huge pair of hands, like shovels, with which he scoops up shots that lesser men would miss.

He also makes the difficult things look easy, something which drives frustrated strikers to distraction.

Kevin Keelan of Norwich, however, can give Pat a few years. I believe he now admits to being 38.

Whereas Pat has been Northern Ireland's 'keeper for many years, Kevin has been unable to win a single full England cap owing to the competition for what is our strongest position.

Some of the other "veterans" on the wrong side of 30 may not be gracing the First Division next season, but I'd put my money on Kevin continuing at Carrow Road.

This Saturday, as I've previously mentioned, Liverpool visit The Dell to play Southampton who finished 14th last term and as losers in the League Cup Final.

I regard them as something of a "mystery" team, one difficult to assess due to the inexperience of many of the youngsters. Saints could surprise us by challenging for everything. On the other hand, they could face a season of struggle.

But whatever happens, be sure that Ballie will be fighting from first whistle to last in every game!

Meet me again next week —

Ray Clemence

Alan Ball (number 7 shirt), with socks rolled down to his ankles after England had beaten West Germany 4-2 in 1966.



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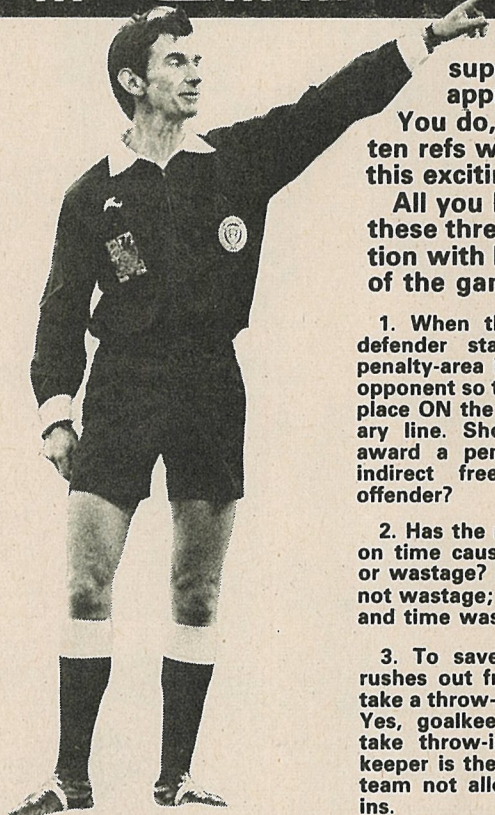
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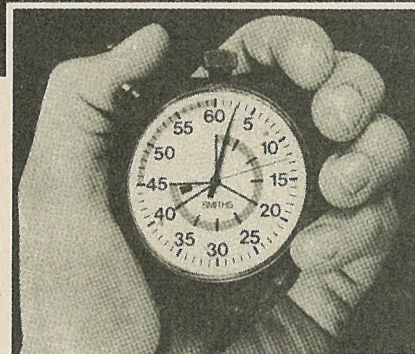
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2. Has the referee power to add on time caused through accident or wastage? (a) only for accident, not wastage; (b) for both accident and time wasting.

3. To save time a goalkeeper rushes out from his own goal to take a throw-in. Is this in order? (a) Yes, goalkeepers are entitled to take throw-ins; (b) No, a goalkeeper is the only member of the team not allowed to take throw-ins.



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THE foundations of my current success in the Liverpool and England sides were laid in a context of failure. For the first seven years of my career I played with Northampton Town.

Twice, in that time, we had to apply for re-election to the Fourth Division.

That's how desperate things were. It was so bad, we thought that 'gates' were something cows went through. Most weeks we were paid on Monday instead of Friday, because the treasurer needed Saturday's turnstile cash to make up the wages.

But there were two bright spots in those days. Ron Flowers, the Wolves and England wing-half, taught me how to strike a ball properly. That is the key to success at the highest level in football. The great players all hit the ball superbly.

I've taken 30 penalties for Liverpool and nobody, not even Peter Shilton, has ever got near one that I struck right. The four or five that I've missed were fluffed because I broke the golden rule of striking the ball.

The second thing that helped me was Northampton's poverty. We couldn't afford to have spare players, so you had to play all over the park in every position as you were needed.

It was only just before I moved that I became an established full-back. The experience has been more useful than I could ever say. I came to know how players THINK and ACT in defence, midfield and attack.

Now, when I set off on an attacking run from the back, I know just what Terry McDermott and Jimmy Case will be thinking. They will know exactly what to do in the situation.

Also, because I attack from the flank, I know just what is in the winger's mind when he takes me on. I can think one move ahead of him then.

Ron Flowers had an attacking outlook and encouraged me to do the same. So does our boss, Bob Paisley. Not once has he tried to force me into a mould. But he wouldn't be too pleased if I set off, attacking from the back, in an away leg of a European game and gave a goal away.

I learned self-discipline at Northampton. As a teenager, I charged about all over the park. I never let up. In the last quarter of an hour, I was shattered. I had to learn that that is the key period when tight games are won and lost. A shattered player is no use in a Liverpool-Everton derby, or a European Cup Final. During seven years hard labour, I learned the lesson of 'pacing' a game.

It was with Northampton that I decided I was a professional and not a "villain". I was hasty, in those days, and it was not uncommon for my name to go in the book.

Then, one day, we drew Hereford Town, in the F.A. Cup. There was a lot of pressure, because the reward for winning was a tie against Newcastle United and a big gate.

In a moment of frustration, I kicked Dudley

Tyler, their winger, and that brought the red card. It was the end of the road. I will never forget the loneliness and the shame as I trudged down the tunnel.

What made it all so stupid, kicking Tyler didn't change anything. We still went to a replay. But it taught me that, whatever the pressure, a real pro, must keep his temper.

That lesson was to stand me in good stead when Liverpool played Real Sociedad away, in the U.E.F.A. Cup. The boss had told me

that their left-winger was a potential match winner and that he wanted him blotting out.

The San Sebastian stadium is one of the most frightening places in the world. The crowd yell and scream like maniacs and they seem to tower up to the sky. It is like playing in a furnace of emotion. What a place to have to mark the potential match winner.

That night I learned what is meant by pressure. Funny thing is I don't remember much about the details. But I was suddenly aware that the crowd were throwing seat cushions on the pitch on our touch-line.

It seemed that their match winner hadn't got past me once, and that was the crowd's way of showing their hero what they thought of him. The lesson learned from the Dudley Tyler incident had paid off.

I have made one radical change from my Northampton tactics, since I came to Liverpool. In those days, I used to force the winger out wide, towards the touch line. I suppose, unconsciously, I was thinking that the farther he was from our goal, the less dangerous he was. How wrong can you be? The most dangerous move in football is when the winger 'turns' the back on the outside, races to the goal-line and then squares the ball back.

That move has brought goals at all levels of football. At Anfield, I learned to play the 'sheep dog' role, edging the winger inside me, where he can be picked up by our midfield strength. By backing off and jockeying, I try to make sure that nobody goes round the outside of me.

It worked in the League against John Robertson of Forest last season. It also worked at Maine Road against Manchester United's Micky Thomas in the F.A. Cup Semi-Final.

If I hadn't changed from my Northampton days, Micky would have had a ball. There is nothing better for him than taking the back on. I played my sheep dog role to perfection that day.

Liverpool's Phil Neal looks back on his career and recalls . . .

'THE DAY I BECAME A SOCCER VILLAIN'



Manchester United's Micky Thomas (left) gets the better of Liverpool's Phil Neal during their F.A. Cup Semi-Final meeting last season at Maine Road.

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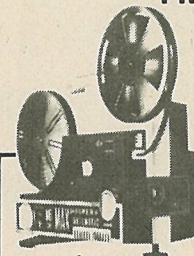
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JIM HOLTON—still a hard man to beat

"Six feet tall, eyes of blue, Big Jim Holton's after you,"...



THAT'S the song thousands of Stretford End youngsters used to sing to themselves, in Jim's great days at Manchester United.

Holton's ferocity in every tackle, used to thrill all the fans at Old Trafford; and it helped Scotland reach the 1974 World Cup, too.

But, if you watched your footballing papers carefully, you might have caught sight of a small story just before the end of last season. 'Coventry defender Jim Holton has been awarded the club's 'Fair Play Award' for the season' was the headline.

At first it appeared impossible. Big, tough Jim Holton — the man who terrorised both strikers and referees for so many years — winning a Fair Play award? It seemed almost impossible. But if it was, surely it meant Holton had taken to carpet slippers instead of hard, soccer boots; given up the tough image in favour of a stylish performer.

But Jim Holton greeted the suggestions with his usual broad Scottish grin.

"Aye, you'd be unwise to think that," he says, straightaway. "I'm no soft touch these days and any strikers who think different, will find out when I face them next time."

So that was Holton's retort to

the stories of a mellowing of the former Manchester United, Shrewsbury and Sunderland defender. But what was it all about?

"I just don't get into the silly situations I used to," says Holton. "It's as simple as that, really. I'm certainly still hard, though."

"I had a bit of a reputation a few years back but I tried to stem that, myself. I used to get booked for going into reckless tackles; balls which were never mine, and it would lead to trouble. But now, I just stay tight on people, rather than dive into them. It has helped my game a lot."

"I would say my best season was 1973-1974. I won the Manchester United Player of the Year award and helped Scotland reach West Germany for the World Cup Finals. But without any doubt, last season was as good as that in terms of my own form."

"At United, I was getting too many bookings and I knew I had to change. Gordon Milne has helped me adapt and I'm sure I'm a better player for making that switch. I missed out for a year or two because of injury problems, often resulting through reckless tackles."

"But I played 40 matches for

Coventry last season and I was proud of that total. I missed hardly any games, apart from when I had an ankle injury which kept me out for four matches."

"I'm just not picking up the knocks I used to and that is obviously of benefit both to the side and to myself."

Holton's reward for that new approach was a new Chrysler Alpine car. Chrysler's have organised the award to the Coventry team for four years now and the decision to give it to Holton, came as a shock to the Scotsman.

Rumoured

"Winning the Chrysler Award was a bit of a surprise but I was pleased. I was also number two in the club's Player of the Year competition behind Bobby McDonald."

Last season it was rumoured Jim wanted to go back to Scotland — and Celtic were mentioned as a club interested.

But Holton says: "They were only rumours as far as I know."

"In football you can never tell what will happen, but I'm happy at Coventry. I would like to think the next two or three years will be my best in the game."

Defender **MARK DENNIS** aims to go forward with Birmingham

THE brightest spot in a season of Birmingham City gloom was the emergence of 17-year-old full-back, Mark Dennis, as a player of talent. And it was more by accident rather than design that gave the promising youngster his first team chance.

"It happened at Norwich early last September," says Mark. "There was only ten minutes to kick-off time when Jimmy Calderwood slipped in the dressing-room and ricked his back, so I rushed and got changed."

'Nightmare'

"To be honest, I would classify it as a nightmare opening. In the first-half I was nervous and Jimmy Neighbour gave me a terrible time. But after the break, and even though I did give a penalty away, I performed better."

"It was just a touch of luck which got me into the team. I thought I might have been dropped, but manager Jim Smith bore with me."

"I missed our game against Chelsea because of a calf injury. Then I started on a run when we played Leeds."

Mark, born in Streatham, South

London, and a Youth international, started as a schoolboy with Chelsea. "I only signed one form and that was on a two months trial basis," he says. "I was 13 at the time, and I was at Stamford Bridge until I was 15½ just playing in the South Eastern Counties Division."

"I was spotted by Birmingham in a game against Watford. John Wilkinson and Don Dorman asked me to come to The Blues for trials. I was quite pleased with the St. Andrews set-up, so I signed. I would have liked a guaranteed apprenticeship at Chelsea, but they wouldn't give me one."

How has Mark found the transition from youth and reserve team football to the big time?

"I don't suffer from many nerves, yet when we started on a bad run, kept losing and then suffered relegation, I found the pressure unbearable. But once this term began I forgot about the disappointments of the past. Now I'm looking forward to a bright future — back in the First Division."

"Pace and striking the ball are my strong points. I'm a natural left footer, but I can use my right. I've practised a lot. Funnily enough I suffered a left leg injury which kept me sidelined. I had to use my right,

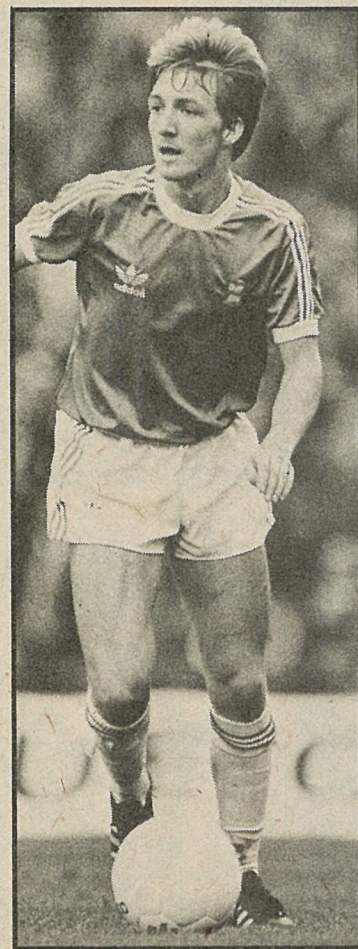
hitting balls up the line and shooting, so I've been improving."

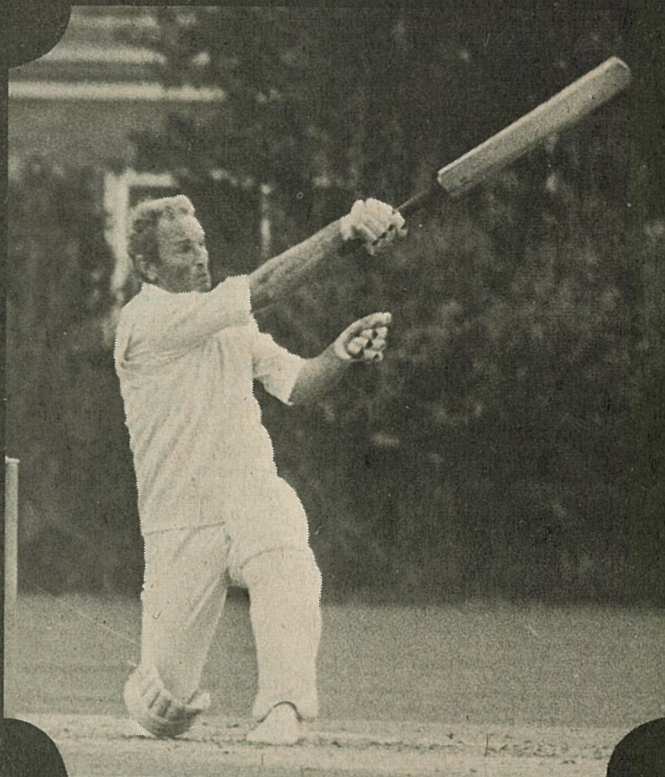
"My weakness, to a certain extent, is heading the ball. I can leap up, but I'm not a classy header. Positional play I find difficult, but I do get plenty of help from the coaches. Staying behind for extra practice in the afternoons with Derek Jefferson and Norman Bodell was really something."

"Keith Bradley has been the inspiration. He's kept my feet on the ground and given me a rollicking when I've needed it. But I've nothing but admiration for all the coaches at St. Andrews."

"My ambition is to regain our First Division place and win an F.A. Cup winners medal at Wembley. Obviously I would like to play for my country at full England level, but for the moment I'm content doing a good job for my club. I'm at the stage where I enjoy football. I'm dedicated now, but I didn't used to be."

"There's a long way to go and really I'm just learning the game. People in similar situations think they are there. But you've got to watch how you live and treat your body right. If you treat it wrong, then surely it's going to seriously affect your game."





UNGUARDED MOMENTS...

ABOVE, LEFT . . . Manchester United boss Dave Sexton is caught having a swinging time with his bat.

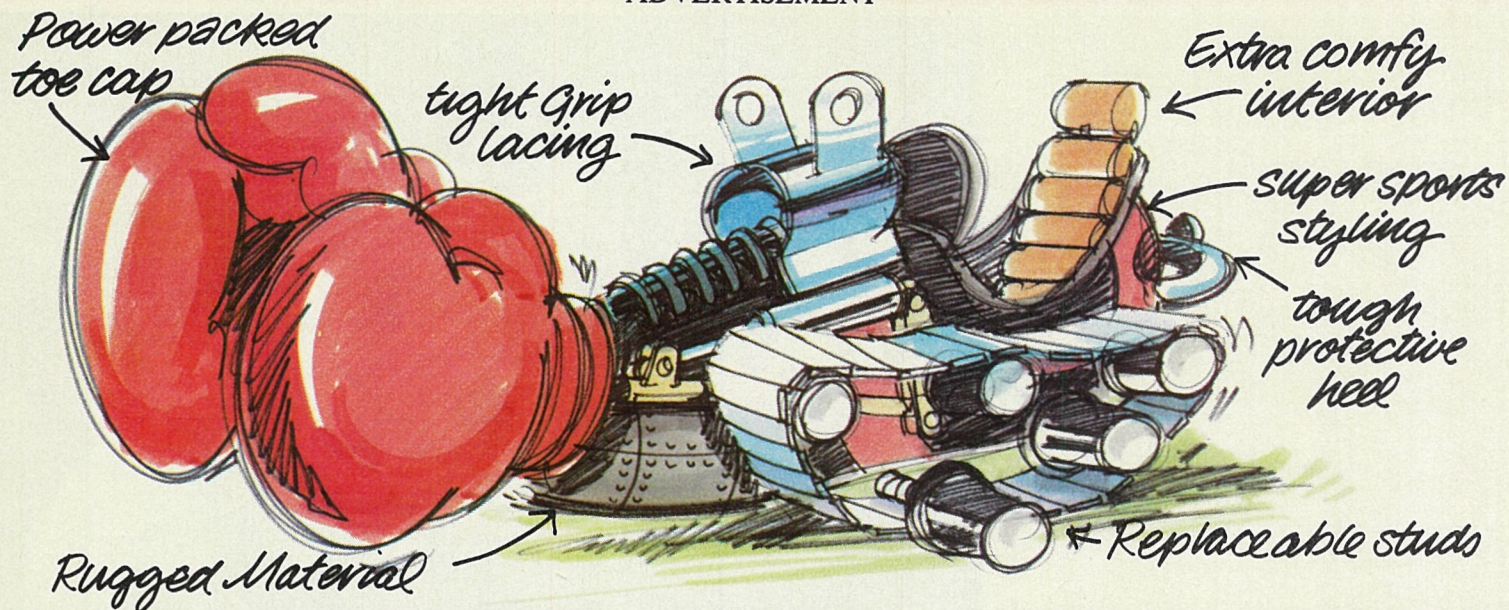
ABOVE, RIGHT . . . Tommy Docherty hopes to carry Q.P.R. back to the First Division; here he gives defender Glenn Roeder a lift.

LEFT . . . Racehorse-owner and Wolves star Emlyn Hughes finds this Donkey Derby tough going.

BELOW . . . Aston Villa's pre-season training was interrupted by a visit from the lion of the film *Bedknobs & Broomsticks*.

RIGHT . . . Chelsea's Micky Nutton comes clean and reveals all — well, mostly all — with a little help from John Sparrow.





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CHANCES are most opera singers have fancied singing pop at some stage in their careers.

That milkmen have wanted a desk job; that sailors have fancied the indoor life.

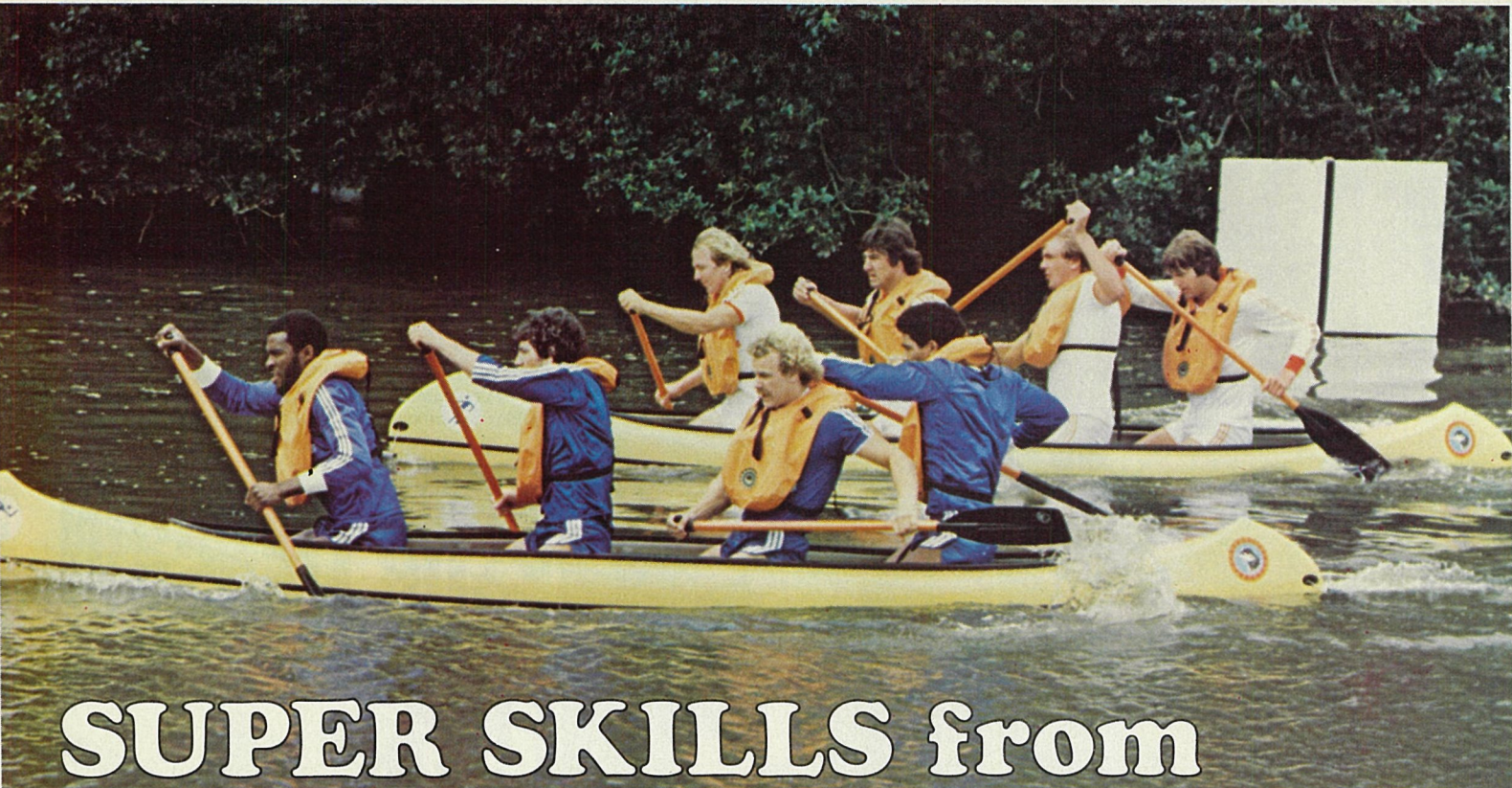
Footballers, too, day-dream occasionally. Some, no doubt, have fancied wielding a cricket bat for England and doing other things.

So, it was no surprise when some of our star players jumped at the chance to tackle a host of other sports in representing The Footballers against The Athletes in a Superteams contest shown on BBC Television last month.



ABOVE: Derby's Gordon Hill employs his backhand chop in a table tennis match partnered by West Brom's Gary Owen. LEFT: Owen again, this time scaling parallel bars on the obstacle course. BELOW: Hill urges the Footballers tug-o'-war team to greater effort. From left to right, Mick Lyons and Andy King (Everton), David Peach (Southampton), Brian Talbot (Arsenal), Phil Dwyer (Cardiff), Mike Channon (Man City), George Wood (Everton). TOP RIGHT: Peach, Talbot, Wood and Channon strike powerfully through the water to make-up ground in the canoe race. RIGHT: Mick Lyons, a latter day William Tell, proved as accurate with a crossbow as he is with a football at Goodison Park.





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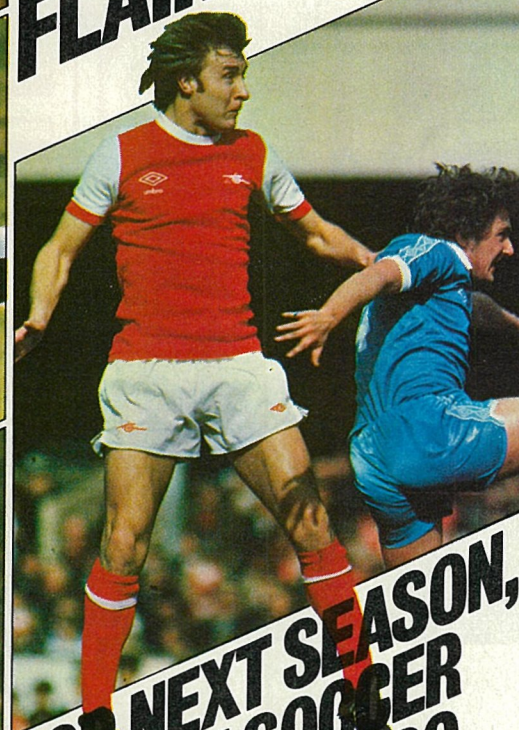
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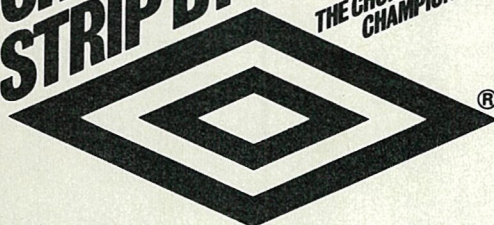
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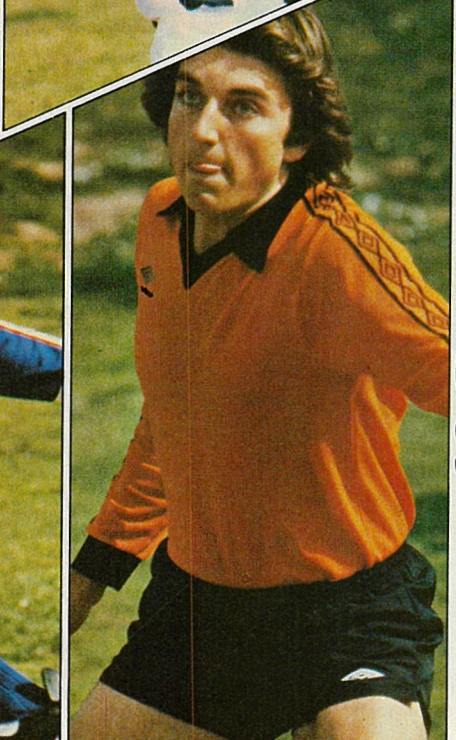
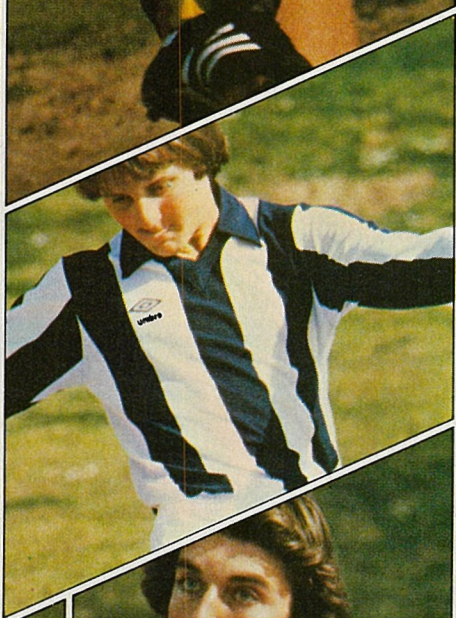
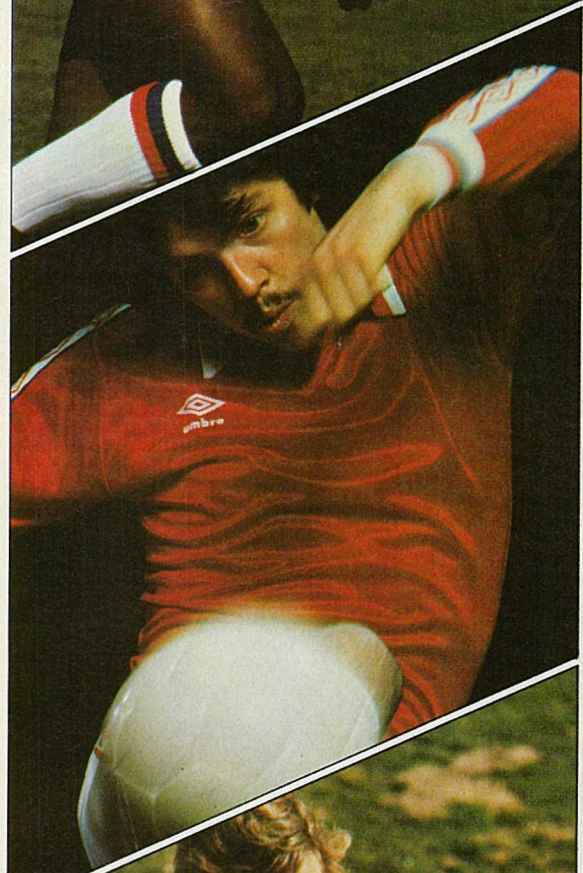


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'No substitute for that number 8 shirt'

says Nottm. Forest's
IAN BOWYER

IAN Bowyer, Nottingham Forest's man of many parts, was given a treasured possession during the close season.

Sometime after he received his European Cup winners' medal in Munich, Bowyer was handed the laundered red shirt he wore on that memorable night.

And the shirt means equally as much to him as the glittering medal.

He explains: "In the past, the shirts I have had from big occasions at Forest have invariably had the number 12 on the back.

"That number eight shirt I wore in the European Cup Final means more to me than a dozen substitute's shirts because it proves I've been directly involved in winning something.

"It's not that I've felt out of it before. If you are substitute you always seem part of things but there is nothing like being involved

Bowyer outjumps the Malmö defence during the Final.



A proud moment as Ian (left) helps captain John McGovern carry the European Cup.

on the pitch."

Despite his regular appearances as Forest's substitute in the last two years of uninterrupted success, Bowyer has had enough experience of the good times to accept his position as a member of the squad rather than the team.

After all last season he figured in 40 first team games and made an outstanding contribution, whether played in defence, midfield or as striker.

He wrote his way into the Forest record books as the man whose goal put the club into the European Cup Final with that stooping, twisting header against Cologne in Germany.

More importantly, perhaps, he also scored in the first-leg against Cologne as Forest clawed their way back to draw 3-3 after being two goals down.

He recalled, however: "That night in Germany was probably the highlight of my career. Scoring the goal that put Forest in the Final meant so much to me personally as well as the club.

"Playing in the Final was obviously something special. It's not that many players who get the chance to play in a European Cup Final."

When he joined Forest in October, 1973 in a £39,000 deal with Orient, the kind of success in which he has shared was not even a pipedream.

He revealed: "I couldn't wait to get away from Orient because they were always going to struggle against so much competition in

London.

"I didn't really settle down there either but when Dave Mackay came to sign me for Forest the biggest thing I was hoping for was that they might get into the First Division at some time.

"Who could ever have thought I was joining a club that was going to take off in the way that Forest have in the last three years.

"The success has been absolutely incredible and it's been a privilege to be part of it. I would not have missed the experience for anything."

But although so often the vital part in Forest's plans, the one-time Manchester City striker is philosophical about the future.

As he looks forward to another season of anticipated success, he commented: "It does look as though I have been put back in the queue for places.

'Regular'

"With Trevor Francis, Asa Hartford and Frank Gray coming to the club in the last six months it has reduced my chances of getting into the side on a regular basis.

"I wasn't regarded as a regular last season but I ended up playing 40 games which is not a bad record," he says.

As we went to press, Ian was discussing his future with manager Brian Clough. At 28 he considered a move may be in his best interest. Should Ian stay you can be certain he'll figure on more of Forest's successful joyrides.

'FALKIRK can make Top Ten'



claims manager JOHN HAGART

SACKED by Hearts. Right-hand man to Ally MacLeod during Scotland's World Cup disaster in Argentina. Coach to Motherwell who were relegated from the Premier Division last season.

These black spots from John Hagart's career may not make impressive reading, yet he is still one of the most respected men in Scottish football.

This was borne out when Falkirk appointed him their manager and put the responsibility for taking the club into the First Division on his shoulders.

Forty-one-year-old Hagart has certainly had his share of disappointments and he acknowledges this fact. But some people forget that he has also had his successes.

Hagart's first job in management came along in 1975 when he took over from Bobby Seith at Hearts. Having been a coach at Tynecastle, he was well-known and respected by the players.

Treble

A year later he took the team to the Final of the Scottish Cup where they lost 3-1 to Jock Wallace's Rangers, who thus completed the "Treble" of Scottish Cup, League Cup and Premier Division title.

The same season Hearts finished a respectable fifth in the Premier and it looked as if the Edinburgh club were really on the move under new boss Hagart.

Season 1976-77 saw Hearts in Europe thanks to that Hampden appearance against Rangers. In the First Round of the European Cup-Winners' Cup they were drawn against Lokomotiv Leipzig of East Germany.

In the first-leg Hearts lost 2-0 and were really up against it. But at Tynecastle they recorded a brilliant 5-1 victory to go through on a 5-3 aggregate.

It is a night still cherished by Hearts fans, for this was the club's first ever success in Europe. In the next round they went out to eventual winners Hamburger SV.

The same season Hearts made the Semi-Finals of the League Cup where they lost to Celtic and the Semis of the Scottish Cup in which they went out to Rangers.

However, things went badly in

the cut-throat Premier Division and Hearts found themselves relegated.

The price John Hagart had to pay was that of his job. The directors decided to sack him.

But there was no shortage of clubs wishing to take advantage of Hagart's talents. Motherwell boss Willie McLean moved quickly to take him to Fir Park as his coach.

During his spell at Motherwell he turned down three chances to go back into management and was selected by Ally MacLeod to go to Argentina to help him with Scotland's ill-fated bid for glory in the World Cup Finals.

MacLeod later succeeded Willie McLean at Motherwell and continued his partnership with Hagart until the Falkirk post came along.

Said Hagart: "I relish the challenge of the Falkirk job. What happened at Hearts hasn't put me off football management. Quite the reverse, in fact."

"I have learned a lot from people like Bobby Seith, Willie McLean and Ally MacLeod and I feel I am better equipped now to make a real go of this job."

Falkirk have great potential and there is no reason why they should not be a Premier club in future. They have more crowd potential than most First Division clubs and even some in the Premier. A winning team here would really pull the fans out."

Atmosphere

Although the Second Division is a lower grade than he has been used to, Hagart got a quick return to the big time atmosphere when Falkirk took on Celtic in the League Cup at the end of August.

The man Hagart replaced at Falkirk, Billy Little, has been appointed boss of another Second Division outfit, Queen of the South. Little was forced to resign as part-time manager of Falkirk when the directors told him they wanted someone to work on a full-time basis.

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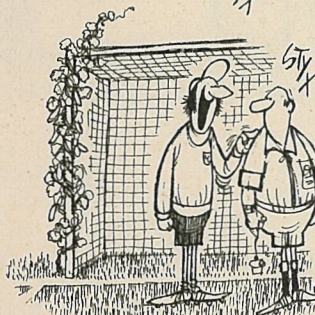
This week Crystal Palace's injured stars Mike Elwiss (left) and George Graham, select the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



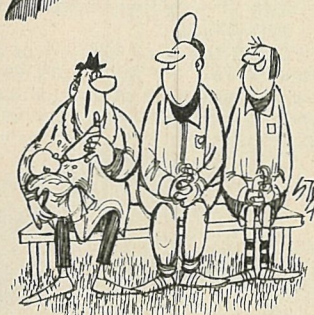
DRESSING ROOM



"He's too good to be true, boss — depressed because he only scored four goals"

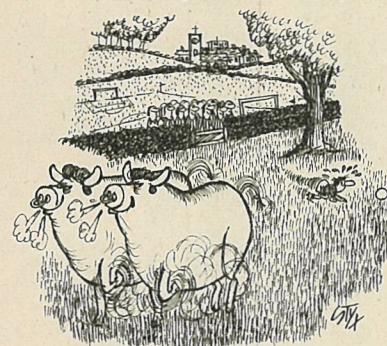


"Remember losing the pea from your whistle last season, ref?"

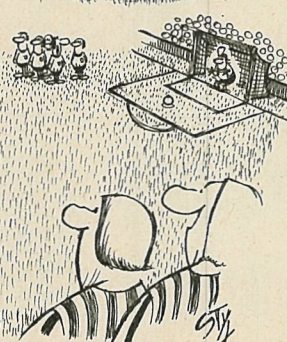


"The wife went to bingo and the babysitter didn't turn up"

"Let's turn that number seven into the fastest winger the world has ever seen"



"Takes his time to get over the long run he uses as a fast bowler during the cricket season"



PROMOTED KILMARNOCK STILL ATTACKING

NOT good enough for the Premier Division, but too good for the First Division... that's the unsettling position in which Kilmarnock find themselves today.

The Rugby Park men are respected for their ideals in soccer, and scorning rigid defensive formations, but ask a footballer or a fan North of the border for his opinion of Kilmarnock and nine out of ten will probably tell you they concede far too many goals for comfort.

Quite simply, they can attack and get away with it in the First Division. Play with the same wild abandonment in the Top Ten and you will be punished severely for it!

When Kilmarnock were relegated from the Premier three seasons ago a lot of the neutral fans were rightly downcast. Killies had provided entertainment, they had presented artistry, they had displayed talents, but, in doing so, they left their guard down and took too many knock-out blows.

Former manager Willie Fernie, the former Celtic wizard of the wing, set the pattern at Rugby Park. He instilled in them the need to play it with method as well as keeping it fluent. Then Fernie left Rugby Park and Davie Sneddon moved in.

Thankfully for Kilmarnock Sneddon has kept the attacking attitude ticking throughout the team. They took second place in



Kilmarnock have yet to see the best of striker John Bourke (centre, receiving an award for Personality of the Month) since his transfer from Dundee United.

the First Division last season and John Bourke typified the spirit of their play by scoring 28 superb goals.

"It's easy to score goals in this company," says the supremely gifted Bourke, an intelligent attack leader who is one of the best aerial experts in the game.

"Everyone pulls for each other. The boys I play alongside aren't

selfish. They provide me with a great service and I do my best to put that ball where it belongs... in the opponents' net."

The best of Bourke has yet to be seen. He first came on the scene amid an avalanche of goals with Dumbarton.

Dumbarton actually first spotted the player in a park just outside Boghead. He was playing in a

bounce game with his mates, but he still did enough to show he had what it might take to make a breakthrough in the senior grade.

He was given that opportunity with Dumbarton and as soon as he was selected for the first team he was knocking in goals.

Several English clubs were linked with him before Dundee United manager Jim McLean came in with a £65,000 bid to take him to Tannadice. Unhappily for Bourke, little went right.

He walked out on the club before the start of last season for "personal reasons" and he was adamant that he would not return.

Controversy

Dave Sneddon watched the situation closely. He knew the player still had a lot to offer football and when the dust settled around the Bourke controversy he moved in with a bid of £45,000 to end the saga and take the born goalscorer to Rugby Park.

Now Kilmarnock and Bourke are back in the Premier Division.

They failed the last time, but it was a glorious failure. They haven't changed their ideas much, but they hope they will be able to show the cynics that they have learned their lessons.

Not good enough for the Premier? Kilmarnock will provide the answer to that question in several months' time.

Bobby Robinson has put new life into

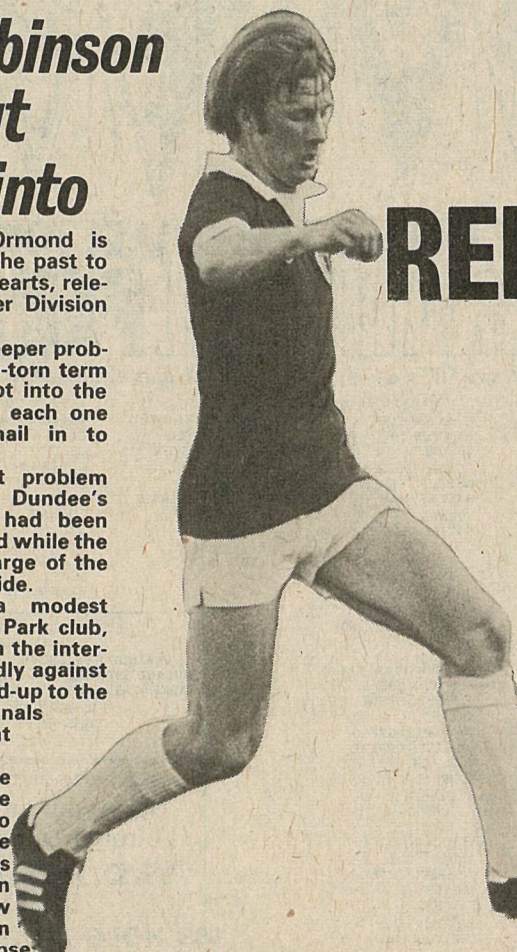
MANAGER Willie Ormond is taking a trip into the past to sort out the future of Hearts, relegated from the Premier Division last season.

Ormond had a goalkeeper problem during that trouble-torn term as goal after goal swept into the Tynecastle team's net, each one hammering another nail in to Hearts' coffin.

The answer to that problem came in the shape of Dundee's Thomson Allan, who had been capped twice by Ormond while the Hearts boss was in charge of the Scottish international side.

Allan, who cost a modest £10,000 from the Dens Park club, showed superb form on the international front in a friendly against West Germany as a build-up to the 1974 World Cup Finals although the Scots went down 2-1.

The 'keeper had some fine games during the season, but it was too late for him to breathe life into an ailing Hearts side who were clearly on the slide. Ormond now has to put some colour in the cheeks of that corpse



Before the start of the season, he needed several other departments strengthened, in particular the midfield. Again Ormond looked back to that match against West Germany in Frankfurt. In his midfield that evening was a certain Bobby Robinson, then of Dundee.

Robinson, a no-nonsense, hard-

tion for long."

Hearts, then, are fully aware that this is going to be a long, hard fight to get out of the First Division. They had a remarkable clear-out at the end of last season when Ormond released such experienced campaigners as Jim Brown, a former skipper, Dennis

RELEGATED HEARTS

working midfielder player, had played well against the glittering skills of West Germany and Ormond noted the name and the performance.

Just before the start of this season Hearts paid £20,000 to Dundee United who had signed Robinson from rivals Dundee a couple of years ago.

Now Robinson starts his career again under the management of Willie Ormond and he will undoubtedly be a key man in the Hearts fight to get back into the Premier Division.

"I didn't need much persuasion to join Hearts," says Robinson. "I was impressed by Mr. Ormond when I was included in international squads.

"Hearts have potential with a great following. Obviously the club is geared for success.

"The rivalry in Edinburgh is even more intense than it is in Dundee.

"Hearts may be down at the moment, but we don't intend to stay in that posi-

McQuade, John Craig, Ray Dunlop and Dave McNichol among others.

The Tynecastle fans have been bitter at the slump in their favourites' fortunes over recent years. When they were relegated three seasons ago they were furious.

Hearts, though, were still one of the best supported teams North of the border as they bounced back into the Top Ten in one season, but clearly they didn't have the resources to live at top level and the finger of relegation beckoned them back into the First Division again.

The focus will be on Bobby Robinson this season. The sum of £20,000 can only be described as 'peanuts' in today's inflated transfer market, but no player will be trying harder to justify that fee in Britain over the coming months.

Robinson was once told he just wasn't good enough for international soccer. He proved his critics wrong then. Now he has the opportunity to show he is too good for the First Division!

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SECURITY KEEPS PAUL MARINER AT IPSWICH

IPSWICH Town supporters are sure to be hoping that their team gets off to a better start this season than they did last term.

They looked to be in all sorts of trouble approaching Christmas time. Hovering dangerously close to the relegation zone, and showing none of the flair and sparkle that took them to an F.A. Cup Final triumph just a few months earlier.

Then suddenly they clicked.

The team appeared transformed as they powered their way through an incredible run of 23 games with only two defeats, which saw them soar up the table, and into a U.E.F.A. Cup spot.

One man who played a major part in that upsurge was Paul Mariner, Town's tall, elegant striker.

His clever ball skills and goal-grabbing ability up-front not only lit the Ipswich fuse, but put him right back into the reckoning for a place in the England squad for the British Championship, and the summer tour.

That is, until fate took a hand, and Mariner was cruelly sidelined with severely damaged ligaments in his left knee.

"It was a daft injury really," says Mariner. "We were playing Derby on Easter Monday, and I went up for a high ball with Steve Buckley in the very last minute of the game. As we came down, he fell across my leg."

The injury was so serious, Paul couldn't move the leg at all for three weeks. And didn't play again until the end of the season.

But then, in a specially arranged friendly at Plymouth — all part of the transfer which took Mariner from the West Country to Ipswich in a £240,000 deal two years ago, it was decided Mariner should play.

"Personally, I didn't think I was

ready for the game. But everyone seemed keen for me to play, so I did."

Sadly, it was Mariner's own judgment which proved to be correct.

"As I went down the line and crossed the ball, I felt a terrible pain in my knee — and just had to come off."

Paul went on the club's close-season tour of America, where the knee stood up much better.

"Just a few twinges now and then."

But he maintains the real cure has been the mixture of rest, and light build-up work he's been able to give the knee at home during the summer.

"I did some work with the ball," he says, "as well as some local road work, because I wanted to be just right for the big kick-off."

Mariner has become a great favourite with the Portman Road crowd, and there were some worried faces around the town last term when speculation was rife that he would be moving on.

Dispelled

The national Press were full of stories, continually linking him with the country's major sides. But the doubts were all dispelled when Paul signed a new, six year contract.

"To my mind, I'm already with a big club," says Paul.

"I believe in Ipswich completely, that's why I pledged myself to them for the next six years. And because I've got that kind of security now, I'm sure my own form will improve even more."

On the England front, Mariner prefers not to be drawn, despite the fact that the man in possession, Bob Latchford, has been having such an unfortunate time just lately.

"Obviously I'd like to be in the side," he says. "But I've got no complaints about Mr Greenwood keeping faith with the man in possession. He's very fair."

Besides, Paul is quick to point out that also in contention are players of the calibre of Trevor Francis and Tony Woodcock — tough competition indeed.

"The England scene must be for the future," he insists.

"Right now my problem is to battle for my spot in the Ipswich side that did so well at the back end of last season."



Trevor Francis (right) is tough competition for an England shirt.

FOR such a hot-bed of soccer, the North-East is one of the coldest and most inhospitable places I know.

Whenever I've played at Newcastle, Sunderland or Middlesbrough, it's generally been cold, wet and windy.

St James' Park, Newcastle, is the worst. On occasions the conditions have been so bad, with icy gusts swirling down from the terraces that it's been difficult standing up, let alone playing football.

No wonder those wonderful Geordies are such a hardy people — they have to be to withstand the weather.

Last season, even a certain amount of rebuilding failed to bring the hoped for success and they finished a disappointing eighth.

I don't really know very much about the present Newcastle side. But of the past team, Irving Nattrass has gone to North-East rivals Middlesbrough, goalkeeper Mike Mahoney is in America, Stewart Barrowclough is with Birmingham and Alan Kennedy at Liverpool. That's a lot of talent to lose . . . and replace.

What surprised me most about Newcastle last season was the way their crowds dipped alarmingly. I think one of their last games attracted less than 10,000. A far cry



Sunderland boss Ken Knighton with his recent signing from Yugoslavia Bozo Bokato.

'BORO COULD EMERGE THE SEASON'S

Newcastle, now languishing in the Second Division, along with neighbours Sunderland, are determined to regain their status as one of the country's top clubs. But from what I know I can't see them achieving their ambitions for a couple of seasons at least.

Manager Bill McGarry, a man with a reputation for discipline, took on a tough job when he replaced the unfortunate Richard Dinnis as boss in November, 1977.

He strove to stop The Magpies from plunging to relegation, but the rot was set too deep.

from the old days when the shipyards would empty when The Magpies were at home.

Naturally I wish Bill McGarry every success. A thriving Newcastle United would benefit the whole game. The Second Division is no place for them.

It's a shame the top Division has been deprived of their tremendous crowd potential and tradition.

While Newcastle still have prob-

lems, the situation looks a lot happier over at Sunderland.

They missed promotion by a point last term, but maybe that was a blessing in disguise.

Perhaps they weren't really ready for the First Division then . . . they are now, though.

Their young manager Ken Knighton, had added to their playing strength during the summer with

the signing of former Newcastle and Roker Park favourite Bryan 'Pop' Robson from West Ham.

How The Hammers could allow one of the game's few instinctive strikers to leave is a mystery to me. Although, of course, Pop may well have wanted to return to his native North-East when his contract expired.

West Ham have replaced him

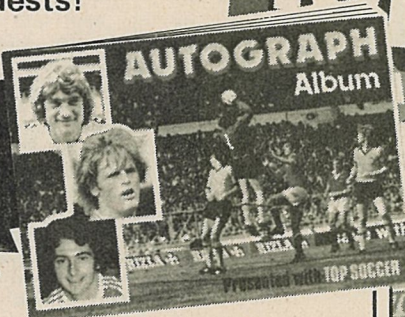
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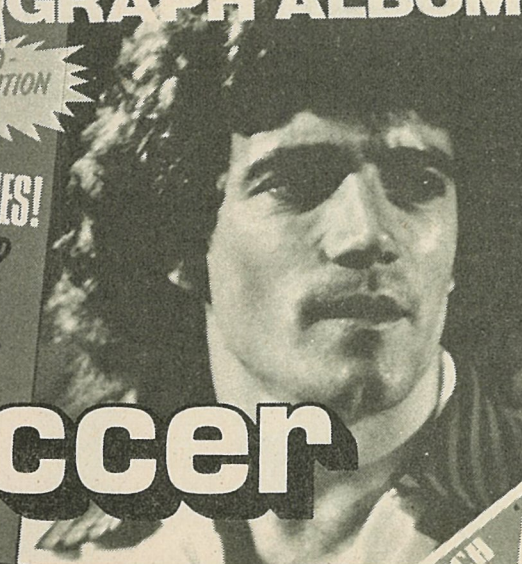
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Top Soccer



with my former United team-mate Stuart Pearson. I'd like to take this opportunity of wishing Pancho every success in his new career in London.

But back to Sunderland and their other recent capture, Bozo Bokato from N.K. Zagreb. That name should give the headline writers plenty of scope this season.

The Yugoslav and Pop will prove valuable assets and bring much needed experience to a comparatively young Sunderland team which is now more than capable of winning promotion and more important staying in the First Division.

The least glamorous of the big

AS ONE OF SURPRISE PACKETS'

three North-East clubs is Middlesbrough, who've gained a reputation of being one of the boring sides in the First Division. A team difficult to beat . . . but with very little punch up-front.

That may well have been true a little while ago, but if Boro can

maintain the form they displayed on the opening day of the season when they beat Spurs 3-1 at White Hart Lane. They could well emerge as one of the surprise packets.

Their manager John Neal told a pal of mine recently: "I have been sick and tired of being patted on the back after my team had dominated matches and lost. I'd rather be unpopular in the First Division than popular in the Second."

It appears the Boro boss is opting for a safety first situation if the need arises. He's doing a Don Revie.

When Leeds were struggling

to survive in the early 60's, he decided on the same tougher, more professional approach, a policy which paid off.

I'm not suggesting Boro will emulate the great Leeds team of the 70's, but I do feel success is on its way to

Newcastle (dark strip) have found it hard to replace their stars sold to other clubs.

If Micky Burns played for Sunderland or Newcastle, Gordon claims he would get more publicity.

MY SOCCER
WORLD

Gordon
McQueen



Ayresome Park.

Boro are United's opponents at Old Trafford this Saturday (September 1st), and although I must take us to win, I expect a hard tussle. As tough as last season's corresponding

game which United managed to win 3-2. Lou Macari (two) and big Joe Jordan were our scorers.

I know a few of the Boro lads through a friend of mine who owns a night club in the town.

When I've been visiting on occasions one or two of their players have popped in for a little drink and a chat.

A couple of former Middlesbrough players who are particular pals of mine, are Terry Cooper, who was with me at Leeds, of course, and Willie Maddren.

Unfortunately, Willie was forced to quit the game recently because of injury. He's now a coach with Hartlepool.

On John Neal's coaching staff is another old buddy, Bobby Murdoch, the former Celtic and Scotland star, who spent some years at Ayresome as a player.

A real character is big Yogi Bear . . . his popular nickname.

Because Boro are one of the less fashionable of First Division clubs, their players don't often receive the publicity and credit due.

Put men like defender John Craggs, 'keeper Jim Platt and forwards Stan Cummins and Micky Burns into say the Newcastle or Sunderland teams and you'd probably hear about them every week.

But as I've said Boro could be well on the way to losing their country cousin image.

Before I close this week I'd like to welcome Ray Wilkins to Manchester United.

This was the move he wanted . . . and the one we at Old Trafford wanted. Players of his class and stature don't become available that often.

I'm pleased to say we will both still remain columnists for SHOOT.

Ray is back next week when I'm sure he'll be telling you all about the move.

I'll see you all again in a fortnight.

Gordon McQueen



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In a transfer-climate bordering on financial lunacy, it is almost impossible to put a price on a player who can reflect on a season during which he scored 28 goals, including one in a victorious F.A. Cup Final, and announce: "I still have a lot to learn about football."

But such is the impressive and thoroughly professional attitude of Arsenal's Eire international centre-forward Frank Stapleton.

Massive cheques are currently changing hands for players who are not even in a position to guarantee full fitness. So attempting to value a player of Stapleton's calibre, it is a pointless exercise to think in terms of money. You have to appreciate his value to his club, his team-mates and the game.

Development

Arsenal, under the careful guidance of manager Terry Neill and Brian Howe, are slowly building a reputation as one of the First Division's realistic challengers for the league title. Players have been bought and sold; the team's face has changed. But Stapleton, although still a comparative newcomer to the demands of the First Division, possesses the character and cool head to blend with the changes without losing an inch in terms of personal development.

He said: "Back in 1976 the first-choice strikers were Malcolm Macdonald and John Radford. They were understandably unwilling to change their style so it was up to me to fit in. As it happened I ended up partnering Malcolm, but we are very different in style and it helped me a lot to work with him."

"He used to talk all the time, encouraging then demanding. But while he was an out and out front-runner, I prefer to drop deep, become involved in the build up."

"It is football's loss that Malcolm has been forced to retire through

injury. He added colour to the game. He also gave me some important lessons in playing in my position. Now, partnering Alan Sunderland, I am in a very different situation."

"We share the roles more, often switching during a game depending on how things are going. We tend to share the goals as well which makes life tougher for defenders. But just because I enjoyed a good season last year does not mean anything in 1979-80. In fact it probably only means that I will be marked even tighter. So I know that I have to maintain a standard of hard work or suffer the consequences."

"At this stage of my career I have a lot to learn. I doubt if a player ever stops learning. Alan and I help each other through tough spells and that is not only good for us but also for the team."

The truth is that since emerging as a raw, lean and dark-haired unknown from Dublin, Stapleton has stepped out of the shadow

he turns his attentions to the international scene.

"So far I have not distinguished myself for the Republic of Ireland and that is something I know I must do — quickly. Unless Group One turns upside down, it is unlikely that we can stop England from qualifying for the European Championship Finals in 1980. But we must maintain our standards because the World Cup groups start very soon. And I want to be a part of Johnny Giles' plans."

"I've only scored a couple of goals for my country, yet my caps are in double figures. For a forward, that is poor. And it counts for nothing that I have scored goals in the League. That's no help to the international side if I don't keep it up when I switch from red to green!"

As Arsenal make their debut in the European Cup-Winners' Cup, Stapleton believes that their disappointing exit from the U.E.F.A. Cup at the hands of Red Star Belgrade last season could be the key to

them going all the way this time.

"Red Star taught us a lesson — that you cannot relax in Europe for a second. We should have beaten them. But so should West Bromwich Albion, who also fell to a late sucker-punch."

"I believe the U.E.F.A. Cup is the stronger competition of the three. Naturally, the European Cup is the best, but the U.E.F.A. Cup usually has League runners-up and top clubs entering, plus there is an extra round. Foreign countries do not always consider their 'Cup' to be as important as our F.A. Cup, and therefore we should do well this season."

"If we keep our heads and take each game as it comes, there is no reason why we cannot do what West Ham, Spurs and Chelsea have already done — win the Cup-Winners' Cup 12 months after winning the F.A. Cup itself."

Stapleton is renowned for his shy, reserved character off the field and his controlled temper on it. While the cheques fly around, drip-

Why money can't buy Arsenal's Frank Stapleton

cast by Macdonald and assumed the leadership of the Arsenal attack in his own right. Skilful and brave, Stapleton is also powerful in the air and dogged in his determination to score goals.

Such assets are truly priceless and almost a valid excuse for a certain measure of conceit. But not from Stapleton, especially when

ping with surplus noughts and many fellow professionals talk of dollars, pesetas and Deutchemarks, Stapleton is also a man capable of maintaining his standards for his club and demanding higher ones for his country.

It is his type of pricelessness that surely guarantees Arsenal long-term success.



The men whose goals sank Manchester United — Alan Sunderland, Brian Talbot and Frank Stapleton.



SOCCER'S SHUTTLECOCKS

MANY great players have started and finished their long careers in the First Division. Consider the cases of former England internationals Joe Mercer, Jimmy Greaves, Nat Lofthouse, Billy Wright and Bill Foulkes.

They thrilled football fans for 20 years or more and none of them ever appeared in any other League Division than the First.

How different it's been with those who have gone to the other extreme, and not of their own seeking, have become the shuttlecocks of soccer — players for ever fated, it has seemed, to be involved in a Championship, promotion, or re-election fight!

Many a remarkable case has arisen of this player or that finding that football life can be a matter of non-stop ups or downs. To be thrust into crucial relegation battles has become very much of a hardy annual with them.

Take versatile Jimmy Lawson. He was with his home-town club of Middlesbrough when they were relegated from Division Two in 1966; with Huddersfield Town he went down from One, Two, and Three in 1972-1973-1975; and now he's been with Halifax when they've had to seek re-election in three of the last four seasons!

Any change for Jimmy clearly would be one for the better, though it hasn't always been a fight for the retention of his club's status. He helped Middlesbrough to win promotion from Three in 1967 and Huddersfield from Two in 1970.

A fellow-Yorkshireman of Lawson must also wonder whether he will ever be free from up-or-down problems with whatever club he helps. He's

defender Graham Watson, who, with Rotherham United, Doncaster Rovers, Cambridge United, and Lincoln City, has just reached double figures — five promotion and five relegation cases!

Then what about Brian Pollard? He was with York City when they missed a drop from Three on goal average in 1973, when they went up in 1974, and then relegated from Two in 1976 and from Three in 1977, but now, in successive seasons, he has ascended from Four and Three with Watford.

Now to consider what has happened to centre-half Bill Green. He was with Hartlepool when they were re-elected in 1970 and 1971, and when they just missed having to apply in both the next two seasons; with Carlisle United when they rose from Two in 1974, came down from One in 1975, and missed a descent from Two on goal average in 1976; while his three seasons at West Ham United were a desperate scrap. Then last season he went down with Peterborough.

Left winger David Wagstaff has endured relegation pangs with three clubs — Manchester City (1962), Wolves (1965), and Blackburn last season, while Terry Dolan is still another for whom soccer has been very much of a shuttlecock existence.

He was with Bradford P.A. when they ended up last in the Fourth in 1969 and also in 1970; with Huddersfield relegated from One in 1972, from Two in 1973, and three in 1975, and a promotion miss by two points in 1976; while since he returned to Bradford he's gone up with City from Four in 1977 and down from Three in 1978!

That variety which is the spice of (football) life has certainly been struck to some tune by the shuttlecocks of soccer.



Jimmy Greaves played his Football League career in the First Division.



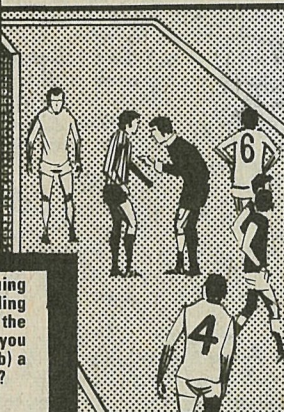
YOU ARE THE REF

Compiled by CLIVE THOMAS

1 At a corner-kick the goalkeeper protests when an opponent stands on the goal-line between the posts. Should you (a) award an indirect free-kick against him when the ball is kicked, or (b) take no action?



2 A goalkeeper wears shorts and stockings which do not clash with the opponent's strip in a Football League match, but are different colours from his team-mates. Is this permissible?



3 Two players of the same team are arguing and pushing each other when standing inside their penalty-area. You stop the game to caution the players. Should you restart with (a) an indirect free-kick, (b) a penalty or (c) a drop-ball?



4 At a free-kick near a goal an attacker stations himself in front of the ball. Opponents protest, should you (a) take no action, (b) instruct him to move or (c) caution him?



5 In a match where two substitutes are allowed you send-off a player. Can both subs still be used?



ANSWERS

1. Take no action (b). This is creeping more into football. It really started with Jackie Charlton at Leeds United, but one has to be fair to him and say not once did I see him commit any infringement. When goalkeepers request me to watch the opponent I always reply: "I will watch him and you". 2. No. 3. An indirect free-kick (a). 4. Take no action (a). 5. Yes.

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Bristol City raid the country for talent — not the Bank



Manager Alan Dicks

THE enormity of Bristol City's task in trying to compete with the wealthy elite clubs of the First Division was mirrored in one crazy week of transfer activity a day or two before the first shots were fired in anger at the start of the new season.

City's manager Alan Dicks was ferreting around East Anglia trying to persuade Ipswich's Northern Ireland international centre-half Allan Hunter to move West down the M4 to Ashton Gate for £100,000.

Dicks was confident that Hunter could bring the same steel and purpose to the heart of City's defence that Norman Hunter, the former Leeds United and England defender, had accomplished before his departure to Barnsley as player-coach at the end of the 1978-79 season.

He failed to get his man when Hunter, stalwart pivot at Ipswich for several distinguished seasons, declined the invitation, and almost in the same breath dismissed Danny Blanchflower's approach from Chelsea.

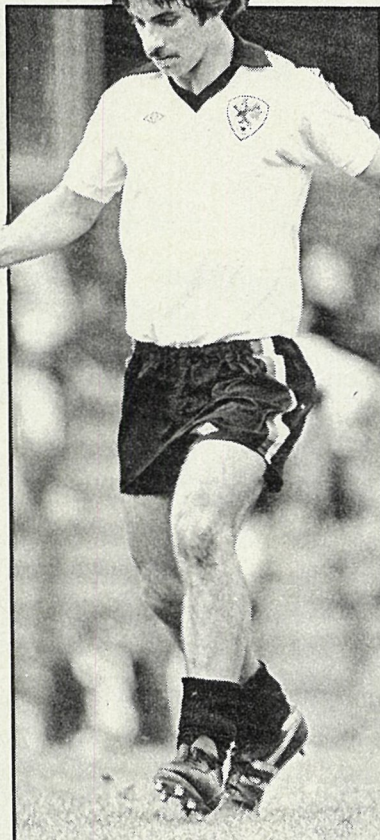
Meanwhile, Manchester City were breathing hard down the telephone to another East Anglian club, Norwich City, in a determined effort to buy Young England striker Kevin Reeves for a staggering £1¼ million.

Malcolm Allison, like Dicks, also failed to make a purchase. But there the comparison ends, for whilst both clubs play in the same First Division one, Bristol City, can deal only in pennies, the other has a bulging bank balance to raid whenever the opportunity arises.

But if football followers believe that Alan Dicks is full of pessimism at the thought of running a club with a tight budget against the giants like Manchester City and United, Liverpool, Everton, and Arsenal, they would be grossly mistaken.

He has never felt sharper, never looked forward to a season more than this one, and is confident that Bristol City will enjoy one of the most successful eras in its 82 year history.

"Running a football club is not all about buying expensive players," insists Dicks. "I am far more



Fitzpatrick for £225,000 from St Mirren.

The Scottish Under-21 star tackles like a tiger and has the same competitive spirit that Billy Bremner, another Scot, brought to Leeds United's midfield in their heyday under Don Revie.

"I think he'll help form a most effective midfield with Gerry Gow," beams Dicks. "They're both winners, never-say-die sort of players that are guaranteed not to let you down."

The manager has re-

warded Gow's loyalty by appointing him captain this season in succession to Geoff Merrick.

"No better player for the job," says Dicks. "Gerry has grown up with the club, he is more adult, utterly reliable and doesn't argue with referees. He will inspire the players around him and lead by example."

Striker Joe Royle, former Everton and Manchester City star, Chris Garland, Peter Cormack and Gerry Sweeney are now hardened First Division performers and Bristol City have also strengthened



Chris Garland

interested in making the best use of the players I've got. Getting them to blend into a unit.

"You can have the most expensive players in the world but if they don't play well together you might as well have not spent the money.

"We haven't spent large sums on our squad for this season but we're quietly confident that we can improve on our performances last season.

"We were fifth in the League table before Christmas but then had a disastrous run losing about seven out of nine to finish halfway up the table. We aim to improve on that if we can."

Alan Dicks has not made a noise in the transfer market, but he has put together a squad that should give a good account of itself.

He has added a fiery bulldog to his midfield by signing Tony

Continued on page 30

BRISTOL



BACK ROW (left-to-right) Donnie Gillies, Clive Whitehead, Geert Meijer, John Shaw, Tom Ritchie, Ray Cashley, David Rodgers, Joe Royle, Howard Pritchard.

OL CITY



FRONT ROW (left to right) Jimmy Mann, Pertti Jantunen, Kevin Mabbutt, Geoff Merrick, Gerry Gow, Gerry Sweeney, Trevor Tainton, Chris Garland, Peter Cormack.

SHOOT!

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Continued

their squad by signing Finnish international Pertti Jantunen, the second foreign import attracted to the club.

Alan Dicks was encouraged to scour foreign fields following the success of Geert Meyer after his transfer to Bristol City from Ajax, but it has not been easy to replace departed stalwarts Gary Collier (to Coventry) and Norman Hunter.

"We are still in the market for a defender," says Dicks.

The fans have their favourites and even managers do too. Alan Dicks makes no secret of his admiration for Liverpool and Nottingham Forest.

"Managers are inspired by good teams the same as anyone else. England's World Cup winning side? What a team! Liverpool have tremendous teamwork but it would be wrong to believe that their success stems only from organisation and work-rate.

"They have loads of talent to support their disciplined approach to football — and that's what I admire."

Bristol City's success in the next five years could depend on their flourishing youth policy, one of the best in the country.

They have already surprised North London giants Arsenal by signing five boys from the Islington area on schoolboy forms. Two others, 17 year-olds John Economou and Chris Ramsey, played in the Islington boys side that won the English Schools Trophy three seasons ago.

Two others with enormous potential at Ashton Gate are goalkeeper David Mogg, who has just got into the England Youth squad, and Gary Smith, a prolific goal-scorer from Warminster, who is only 16.

Both played for the Midlands

Youth League representative team last season. Other youngsters in the wings at City include eight members of the Bristol Boys XI that won the English Schools Trophy last season, Michael Hooper, a goalkeeper, Wayne Bray and Paul McLoughlin midfield players, defenders Billy Downs, Simon Chivers, and Mark Newport, and strikers Kevin Meacock and Edwin Williams.

Roger Quinton, Bristol City's youth manager, says proudly: "We have had the biggest monopoly of boys from this area for many years, despite competition from Bristol Rovers."

"Six of our lads have won schoolboy international honours in the last six years."

Bristol City are carrying out extensive ground improvements to comply with new safety regulations governing crowds and their supporters club is one of the most progressive in the Football League.

In early-summer the pitch looked like a ploughed field. Not a



Geert Meyer (above). Joe Royle (left). Kevin Mabbutt (right).



blade of grass and the surface more suited to King Edward potatoes than football studs.

City's groundsman Mike Lillington left the club last season and they have only just replaced him. But his departure did not deter the club from seeking to improve the playing surface, which was breaking-up alarmingly by the end of 1978-79, one of the worst seasons for bad weather in Football League history.

The pitch was ploughed-up, re-sown, and is now spring green for

their 21 home League games this season.

The giant car park has been tar-macked and the supporters club have forked out £25,000 on renovating their clubhouse.

The cash outlay is a pittance compared with the vast sums of money spent by the more illustrious clubs, but Bristol City and their fans are happy enough with the

progress they are making in the First Division.

As Alan Dicks says: "There is nothing second best about this club. We enjoy our football and we are progressing. Not all clubs can say that."



John Shaw below, saves from Liverpool's marksman David Johnson.

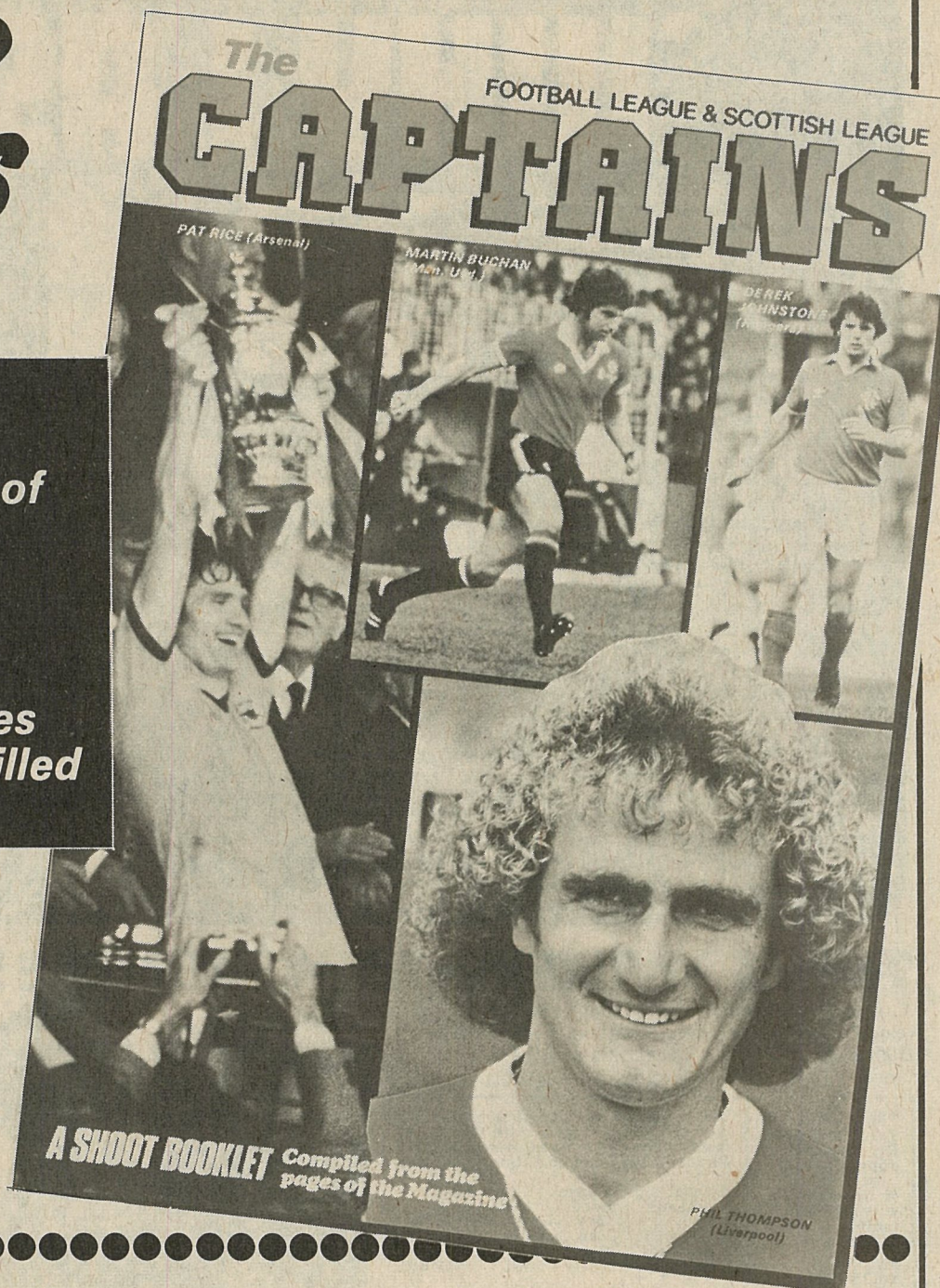


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WHY I ASKED TO

ASTON Villa may have turned down my transfer request, but I was determined to keep on asking to get away and was delighted when the club listed me just before the season began. It may have come as a surprise to many people that I wanted to leave Villa Park and it's a decision that was not taken lightly.

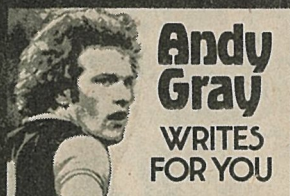
I want to say I've been very happy with the club and I'll always be grateful to them for giving me my chance in England. However, I felt the time had come for a change.

I don't feel either Villa or Andy Gray have progressed as they should over the past two seasons. From my point of view, my career has stood still — and before you say it . . . no, I don't think my injury problems are to blame.

Last season wasn't a good one, but in 1977/78 I played around 40 matches, which isn't bad going.

I'm ambitious and I want success. After we won the League Cup in 1977 I felt we could go places.

I signed a long-term contract which takes me up to 1982 as an indication of my faith. I was sure Villa would build on that League Cup triumph; it's a great club and we were geared for better and bigger things.



Sadly, we haven't progressed as we should have done. It isn't the right time to go into reasons why not; I've already had some of my older SHOOT columns taken out of context by a national newspaper, but I feel I owe it to the magazine to be honest to its readers as it has been loyal to me.

I handed a request to Villa manager Ron Saunders just after we started pre-season training and it was rejected. Contrary to what you may believe, we are still on good terms and we understand each other. There is no bad feeling between us, nor have any of the Villa players said anything to me.

It was suggested that the timing of my request could have been better; that I should have at least waited until I'd proved my fitness again in Division One.

There was no doubt in my mind

"Villa haven't built on the League Cup triumph of 1977."



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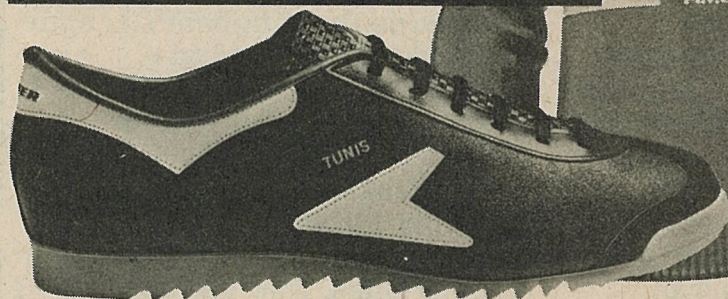
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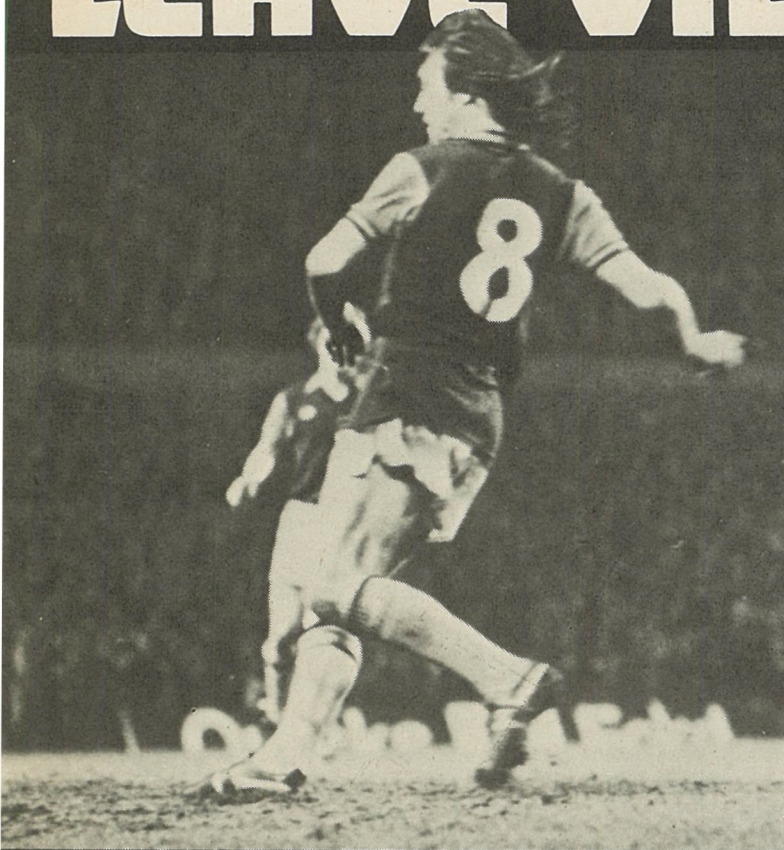
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LEAVE VILLA'



that the knee on which I had the cartilage operation was "A.1" and that I'd be available for selection for the opening game of the season.

I wanted to get things sorted out as quickly as possible. Villa told me I must stay, but I continued to make my feelings known by submitting further requests.

I was accused of joining the European Bandwagon, but as I've said in my column before, I have many ambitions to fulfill in the Football League and this is where I want to play for the foreseeable future.

On the other hand, if it came to a direct choice: Villa or the Continent, I'd choose to go abroad. A few years ago I turned down a move to Schalke 04 of West Germany because I wasn't ready for such a step. I'd have no doubts now, though.

Exchange

A fee of more than £1 million was mentioned, which is crazy. Mind you, the transfer market is crazy. My initial thought was that any deal would involve a player-plus-cash exchange.

I'm 23 and I know what I'm capable of, and I hope other people are, too. The best of Andy Gray is still to come and I believe it will be seen to its full effect if I leave Villa.

It was a difficult decision to make, one of the biggest of my life, but I'm convinced it was the correct one.

If Villa do sell me, they'll be well compensated, but while I'm here I'll continue to give 100 per cent for the club as usual. I'm not the type to do

otherwise.

The transfer situation isn't something that is on my mind all the time, although inevitably people mention it, which is only to be expected.

There have been quite a few comings and goings at Villa Park this summer and if I was surprised at the decision to sell Brian Little, I was even more surprised when the deal fell through because of his back trouble. I've never known Brian to have any trouble with his back and it's all very strange.

I have a high regard for Brian, a player with the skill and imagination to do the unlikely. I'm sure he'll knuckle down to prove Birmingham City wrong, as other stars have done in similar circumstances.

I'm writing this column earlier than usual because of the crowded fixture list at the start of the season . . . a campaign that will be a make-or-break for Aston Villa. If we don't land one of the Big Two trophies, then . . . well, I don't know what will happen.

It's wrong to blame Villa's failure over the past two years on the injury list. Okay, so we've had more than our share of knocks, but the players who have stepped in when called upon have never let the side down.

Last season we dropped 17 home points and you don't have to look any further than that statistic to see why we won nothing. That is 14 points too many; not too long ago Villa were virtually unbeatable at home, like Liverpool, and even a home draw was a turn-up.

Improve

If you're going to win the title or even a spot in the U.E.F.A. Cup you can't afford to drop 17 home points. No one at the club is in any doubt in which area we must improve.

There is a huge first team squad and Ron Saunders has the problem, if that's the right word, of having quite a few alternatives for just about every position. His aim will be to find the right balance and blend; we certainly have a lot of player-options.

For the first time since I've been here, we have an out-and-out winger in Tony Morley, with Terry Donovan and Kenny Swain also able to play wide. Myself, John Deehan and Brian Little are in contention for the other two forward places.

I'll be disappointed if I don't score well over 20 goals this season. My main aim is simply to play in every game and score as many goals

"Villa v Middlesbrough last season, one of too many home defeats."



as possible. I missed being involved last term, when I spent too much time on the sidelines, so I have a lot of goals to catch up on.

For which club, I'm not sure. While I'm with Villa, they know they can count on me to do my best.

See you in two weeks,

Andy Gray

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GATES INCREASE

THE North American Soccer League attracted over five million fans for their regular season games this summer for an average of 14,199 per game.

That's 14 per cent up on last year — but at San Diego they had a 112 per cent increase. They had almost 12,000 per game.

Tampa were up 56 per cent and the arrival of Cruyff (right) boosted the Los Angeles Aztecs' average to around 14,000.

The Cosmos beat their record points total of 214 last summer with 216 this summer.

ARGENTINIAN Oscar Fabbianni came from behind to edge Giorgio Chinaglia out of the scoring crown.

Fabbianni won the scoring title by just a point, or one assist. He scored 25 goals and eight assists in 26 games for 58 points.

Chinaglia got 26 goals and five assists in 27 games to end up with 57. Gerd Müller was third on 55. FOR the second year in a row, Vancouver's Phil Parkes had the best goalkeeping record with an average of 0.965 per game.

He tied with Los Angeles' Colin Boulton again for the most shut-outs, or clean sheets. Last season they both had ten — this time seven.

Cap wanted

TAMPA Bay Rowdies goalkeeper Winston DuBose is 90 minutes away from a career in the Football League. DuBose, one of the personalities of the NASL, would like nothing better than to play in England, but he won't get a work permit unless he's an international.

DuBose has spent a couple of winters in England training and playing non-League soccer. Such is his love for England, he's even lost much of his American accent for a Transatlantic Cockney accent!

The Du, as he is nicknamed, is just 24 and is rated as one of the top 'keepers in the States. Now, he's hoping to win that elusive cap... and with it the chance to play in England. The likeable DuBose is a real character and would probably be a hit with a Second or Third Division team.

The Sheriff of Houston

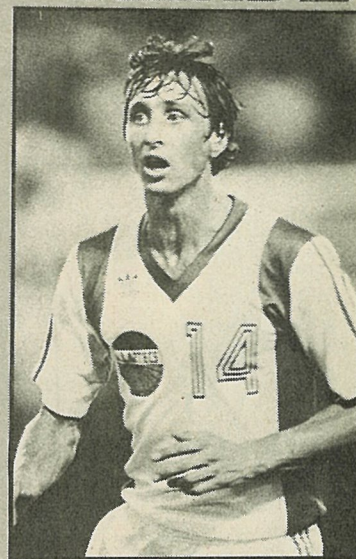
PAUL Hammond, Houston's ex-Crystal Palace goalkeeper, had a tremendous season.

Hammond, 26, who was obtained from Tampa Bay midway through the 1978 season, played in all but one of the Hurricane's games this year.

In those 29 games, he made 213 saves, allowed only 44 goals — and had an incredible shootout record. He conceded only two goals in 16 attempts by opposing strikers.

Thanks to him, Houston were the only side in the League to boast an unbeaten home record. They won all 15 games at the Astrodome.

Hammond, nicknamed The Sheriff by team-mates, says: "In the States, you've either got to stand out by good statistics, or



SOCCER in the STATES



you've got to be a showman. I try and get noticed by my statistics."

Hammond kept goal for Tampa when they won the title in 1975 and is hoping to go all the way to Soccer Bowl again this year.

THE Cosmos are rumoured to be on the verge of signing Argentina star Rene Houseman for £600,000.

FORT Lauderdale's latest publicity gimmick was to give out diamond stick pins to the first 5,000 women fans who came escorted for the Philadelphia Fury game.

While the majority were made of glass, several were real diamond and there were two jewellers on hand to let each woman know which was the real article.

SAN Jose had another disastrous season but Paul Child — former Aston Villa — maintained his scoring crown. He scored eight goals.

JIM Gabriel, former Southampton midfielder man, is expected to get the push from his job as coach of Seattle.

ALAN Willey, former Middlesbrough striker, was Minnesota's top scorer for the fourth successive season with 21 goals and seven assists in 29 games.

Willey, 22, is a perfectionist, too. After going four games without a goal, he asked to be dropped for the final fixture against Houston.

Coach Roy McCrohan wouldn't hear of it — and Willey got the overtime winner that clinched the Kicks' fourth Divisional title.

Willey has now scored 72 goals and had 18 assists in 102 games over four seasons.

Return of Scotland's

WILLIE Pettigrew is relishing the unexpected opportunity afforded him to demonstrate that he is still one of the best strikers in Scotland.

Jim McLean, manager of Dundee United, reckoned it was money well spent when he decided to spend £100,000 in securing the services of Pettigrew for his club from Motherwell before the start of the season.

And Pettigrew, the one time "goalden boy" of Scottish soccer whose career turned sour, is quietly confident himself that he can return to peak form and silence his critics.

"I know what I can do," he says. "I think my record speaks for itself. It stands up well by comparison to anyone else."

And so it does! Pettigrew hammered in 81 goals in an incredible run of success in three years for Motherwell between '74 and '77.

One player who came up against him during that period was Hearts' former centre-back and captain Alan Anderson who recalls: "There was a game at Fir Park and it looked as though we were going to get a point.

'Demoralising'

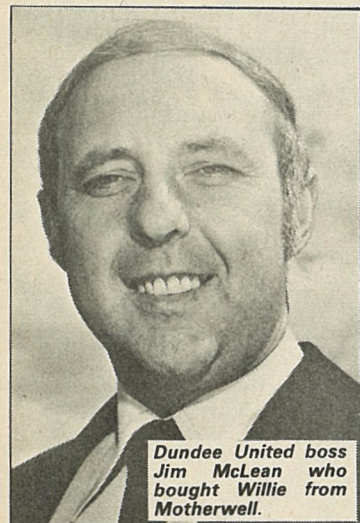
"To be honest, Willie Pettigrew had had a fairly quiet afternoon. We were watching him carefully, of course, because of the way he had been demoralising defences.

"It looked like being a non-productive day for Pettigrew until two chances came his way. Bang! Bang! Two chances, two goals. Just like that.

"We were bewildered. We had kept him quiet, but at the end of the day Motherwell picked up the points and Pettigrew bagged another two goals. Remarkable, really!"

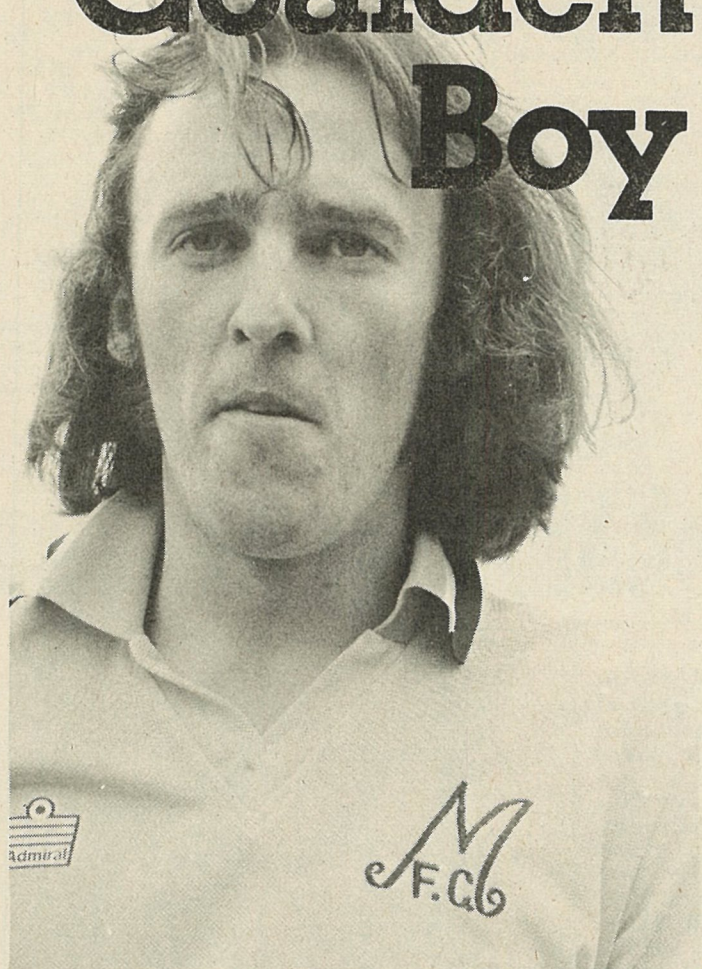
Tommy Craig, the former Aberdeen, Sheffield Wednesday, Newcastle and Aston Villa midfielder now turning it on for Swansea, made his international debut on the same evening as Pettigrew four years ago.

Switzerland provided the oppos-



Dundee United boss Jim McLean who bought Willie from Motherwell.

'Goalden' Boy



ition and Craig says: "I had heard all about Willie Pettigrew from my brother John who was then with Partick Thistle.

"He had told me all about his goalscoring exploits and I was looking forward to playing alongside him. Of course, I had heard some players and managers saying he couldn't play and all that sort of thing, but I wanted to make up my own mind.

"The conditions were atrocious, but within a minute we were a goal up. Who scored? You've guessed . . . Willie Pettigrew!

"Kenny Dalglish lobbed over a delicate cross from the right-wing, aimed at the near post. The Swiss defence hesitated and that was all Pettigrew needed.

"He came in like an express train and simply hammered an unstoppable shot high into the net. And that was the end of the story. We won 1-0 . . . and Pettigrew was our marksman. You cannot ask more from a goalscorer, can you?

Ironically, Pettigrew was given his big chance at Motherwell by their former boss Willie McLean . . . brother of Jim, the Dundee

United manager who paid out £100,000 for him.

Pettigrew is used to the ups and downs of soccer. He actually kicked off his career with Hibs, but was given a free transfer by Eddie Turnbull. He drifted into amateur football and then juniors before Motherwell gave him a second chance.

He took that opportunity with devastating ability. Managers from England and Europe flocked to Fir Park to see him in action, but the enigma continued. No one could make up their mind about him.

Former Middlesbrough manager Jackie Charlton watched him several times and admitted afterwards that, frankly, he wasn't impressed, "but the boy must have something".

Difficult

West German club St Pauli wanted to pay £300,000 for the player three years ago, but that deal fell through for personal reasons. Pettigrew will be the first to admit that his form has dipped in recent seasons, but, really, the boy has been playing under extremely difficult circumstances.

Willie McLean left Fir Park to be replaced by Roger Hynd who stayed a year before moving out and making way for former international boss Ally MacLeod.

"I was glad to leave Motherwell," says Pettigrew. "Things weren't working out and my form was suffering. I'm delighted to join Dundee United. They are a progressive club. I'm happy to be here."

Pettigrew is being given another chance to show his lightning swift ability in the penalty-box. The player is determined to blast any lingering doubts about his talent.

Do not bet against him . . .

A familiar sight as Pettigrew is congratulated after scoring another goal.



SHOOT: Do you really enjoy being a "man in a suitcase", always on the move?

REP: Yes, perhaps it's a little difficult for the family, but we're still young. I'm delighted to be going to St.-Etienne. I'm 27 and Les Verts are ambitious and I'm hoping to add another title or two to my collection. It'll be an honour to play alongside people like Michel Platini and Dominique Rocheteau, and I seriously think we'll stand a good chance of doing the Treble this season — French League, Cup and UEFA Cup. Above all I'd love to win the League because that would give us a crack at the European Cup. It's so long since I last played a European Cup game that I can hardly remember it! Anyway, they've made me feel very welcome at St.-Etienne, and I have a feeling that this is going to be an important new phase in my career.

SHOOT: What about your two years with Bastia. Wasn't it a backwater?

REP: No, not really — at least, not during my first year, which was really sensational. I played in every game, and I was the idol of the fans, I think. We got some good results in Europe and our morale just soared. No one ever suspected

thing or two.

SHOOT: Did you enjoy playing alongside Mario Kempes?

REP: He's a great player, though he wasn't at all well-known then. In fact, I'd say he's a better player now than he was at that time, because he tried to do everything solo.

SHOOT: Your "good old days" were with Ajax though, weren't



they?

REP: Yes, though I came in the tail-end of Ajax's great run. I was a youngster trying to break through, but they had a good winger called Swart, who kept me out of the team for a long time. When I finally became a first team regular I was overjoyed — after all, Ajax were the best club in the world!

SHOOT: It must have been a disappointment that the team started to break up relatively soon after you had established yourself...

REP: Yes, the money in Holland simply couldn't compare with what they were offering in places like Spain or Belgium, and the key players started to drift away. The team started to go downhill, especially when Knobel was manager. He somehow managed to argue with everybody and in the end I jumped at the chance to sign for Valencia.

SHOOT: How would you compare the football in the countries you've played in?

REP: I think that Dutch football has become a little too clinical — and too defensive. Most teams play not to lose, and of course this

makes life very boring for the spectators. I think it's also why we don't get any good results in Europe these days either. There aren't any attacking sides like Ajax or Feyenoord who can overwhelm their opponents. As for Spain — well, the game is just too violent. Some of the tackling just isn't tackling — it's grievous bodily harm! They kick you and punch you all the time. In France it's perhaps the opposite because I think some of the tactical side of the game is badly neglected.

SHOOT: For Johnny Rep, the future holds three years with St.-Etienne. But what's the fate of the Dutch national team during the next three years?

REP: It's an interesting question, because we must build a new team in time for the 1982 World Cup. People are saying that Holland are finished as a soccer power, but I wouldn't "bury" us yet if I were you. We're still producing good young players, and there'll still be a few of us 'veterans' around in 1982.

SHOOT: Most of the Dutch team seem to be trickling their way into the United States. Can you see Globetrotter Johnny Rep following them?

REP: It's possible, I suppose. The Cosmos approached me at the same time as they approached Rijnsbergen after last year's World Cup. I turned them down because I felt I was too young to head for the States. I'm glad I made that decision because I think the next three years could be very exciting ones for me. It'll be a change to spend three seasons in one place, that's for sure!

Travelling Rep

CAREER DETAILS

A European Cup winners' medal with Ajax, when he scored the only goal of the 1973 Final against Juventus. An Intercontinental Cup win over Independiente, when he came on as sub and scored twice. Two World Cup Finals with the Dutch national team. Two years in Valencia, one of them playing alongside Mario Kempes. Two years in Corsica, helping modest Bastia in an amazing run to the UEFA Cup Final. And now Johnny Rep is on the move again, this time to the French mainland to join Saint-Etienne, the once-famous club who are now determined to renew their European glories.

we'd reach the UEFA Cup Final, but it was a pity we played so badly in the two matches against PSV Eindhoven in the Final. This last year we've suffered from a bit of a hangover, I think. We've had a lot of injury problems, and we haven't been so hot in midfield since Larios' departure. Personally I haven't done badly because I scored 15 times in 35 games. I think the worst thing for me was having to play in front of 3,000 spectators in the Furiani stadium, and I've really missed the big match atmosphere. This is something I'm looking forward to at St.-Etienne.

SHOOT: What about your two years in Valencia?

REP: I really loved Valencia, and I go back there every year for my holidays. I perhaps didn't do as well as I should have done in Spain — I fell out with the manager Heriberto Herrera and things went from bad to worse. Still, I scored 27 goals for Valencia and learned a



Johnny Rep, of Ajax, climbs above the Juventus defence to head the only goal of the 1973 European Cup Final in Belgrade. "The best club side in the world then," says Rep.

A look at the background to the 1982 World Cup

WORLD WIDE



compiled by
CHRIS DAVIES



ORANGE EMBLEM

THE choice of an orange as the emblem for the World Cup has been well-received in Spain, particularly by the Minister of Agriculture, who commented "this could sell us a lot of oranges..."

Not everyone is happy, though. Spanish Television have started legal proceedings in a fierce copyright argument surrounding Naranjito. A T.V. producer is claiming that Naranjito bears too much resemblance to a "friendly marrow" used on T.V. quiz programme 'Un Dos Tres' and is asking to have it banned!

OFFICIAL confirmation that there'll be 24 teams in the 1982 World Cup Finals didn't come as much of a surprise to anybody, as F.I.F.A. have been openly campaigning for this move during the best part of a year.

Just for the record there'll be 14 teams from Europe; four from South America; two from Africa; two from Asia and Oceania; and two from the CONCACAF and North America group.

The 24 teams will initially compete in six groups of four, with the top two from each group qualifying for the next phase.

24 World Cup Finalists a big mistake

These 12 survivors will be split into four groups of three, and the top team from each group will go through to the Semi-Finals. From here, matches will be played on a knock-out basis.

F.I.F.A. estimate that anything from 12 to 16 stadiums will be needed for these new-style, 52-match Finals, and this represents no problem in Spain where grounds are generally of a high standard. In fact, at the moment everyone is patting each other on the back and proudly claiming that there'll be very little preparation work needed compared with those the Argentinians had to undertake.

In a way this is true, but I can't help feeling that, by merely looking at the stadiums, training facilities, communications and so on, both F.I.F.A. and the Spaniards are perhaps failing to recognise their biggest problem — the fans! In 1978, relatively few Europeans made the trek to Argentina, simply because of the enormous expense involved and, what's more, the Argentinian government was able to keep the numbers strictly under control by insisting that all fans booked a package tour including hotels and match tickets.

In 1982, the situation will be alarmingly different. Large numbers of South Americans are already participating in savings schemes which will allow them to make the trip to their "mother

country" for the Finals. Ditto a number of African countries and if, say, Tunisia were to qualify again, thousands of fans would surely make the hop across the Mediterranean.

The Asian teams are unlikely to travel with hordes of supporters, but if the United States were to qualify from the CONCACAF/North America group, the following would surely be massive. And all this is *before* we come to the main problem — the 14 European countries.

All of them will be within three hours flying time of their Spanish destinations, and all but the Iron Curtain countries will attract thousands (if not millions!) of supporters. It's on the cards, for example, that two British teams could qualify and how many soccer fans who normally go to Spain for their holidays anyway *wouldn't* want to go? Very few, I reckon. If France or Portugal qualify I imagine about half the population will troop across the border!

To make matters worse, the Finals are scheduled to begin on June 16th and continue well into July. Now anyone who's been to Spain in July will know that at this time of the year the place is abso-

lutely packed with tourists.

How and where are the football fans going to fit in? Following the laws of supply and demand there's only one thing that's certain — prices are going to rocket to ridiculous levels as tour companies try desperately to secure accommodation for their clients.

Unless the Spaniards can come to terms with this inevitable problem, we could even be faced with a black market in hotel beds!

There's no doubt whatsoever that Spain is extremely well-equipped to stage the World Cup Finals — even with 24 teams. The problem is that the country is already too popular as a tourist resort to be able to cope with the vast influx of World Cup fans.

The Spaniards *cannot* control their frontiers in the same way as the Argentinians did, but they must take measures to (a) reserve sufficient accommodation for soccer fans and (b) keep prices to reasonable levels.

As I say, I'm alarmed at the possible numbers of fans that 24 teams will attract and I'm convinced that the Spaniards' biggest problem will be to cope with a normal tourist season *and* the biggest ever World Cup.

Señor Raimundo Saporta (right), chairman of the 1982 World Cup committee, could have a few headaches with 24 Finalists.



Italy (dark shirts) and France would bring thousands of fans to Spain if they qualify for the World Cup Finals.



Draw presents problems

F.I.F.A.'s decision to expand the 1982 World Cup Finals to include 24 countries leaves the European authorities with a bit of a poser. U.E.F.A. have got to devise a system which allows 13 teams to qualify (host nation Spain are automatic qualifiers) and this could be a controversial process.

With 31 teams competing, the obvious move would be to divide them into five groups of three countries and eight groups of only two countries. But this type of distribution would have to be strictly controlled, and it would be obviously unjust for a country like Poland, for example, to find itself in a tough group with, say, Bulgaria and Finland, while in another two-team group the Russians are cheerfully disposing of Luxembourg.

Another possibility is to have five groups of five teams (with the top two qualifying)

plus two groups of three with only the winners going through. But even here, the runners-up in the smaller groups could feel unjustly eliminated.

The draw usually leaves something to be desired (for example, in the 1978 eliminators England and Italy were paired; Russia and Hungary were paired; yet countries like Sweden and France had a much smoother passage to Argentina) and we can only hope the U.E.F.A. and F.I.F.A. can reach an agreement this time round.

F.A. Secretary Ted Croker commented: "I'd prefer to see five groups of five teams and one of six. The top two teams in the five-country group and the top three in the other would qualify. In this way, we can all look forward to planning our World Cup programme nicely over the next two years."

This week's Star Letter comes from Stan Edwards of Allerton, Bradford, who wins our Special Prize of £5. He writes:

REVIE ROW

YOUR "Sinner to Saint" article on Don Revie's so-called defection to Saudi Arabia was yet another dig at one of the most successful managers English football has produced.

So what if he resigned without any notice, upsetting the F.A.? How much notice did they give Sir Alf Ramsey before kicking him out when we failed to qualify for the 1974 World Cup?

It seems the F.A. can hire and fire at will, but as soon as someone gets out while the going's good they kick up a fuss.

Were we REALLY expected to beat Italy anyway? As soon as the draw was made it was "decided" that whoever scored the most goals against Luxembourg and Finland would qualify.

If Revie was so wrong about what he said about the '66 stars being finished (which you sarcastically disputed) by 1967, how come England have not qualified for a World Cup since 1962?

And come to mention it, how many medals has Martin Peters, your shining example, won since 1966? Don Revie was taking Leeds to the top as Peters was taking Spurs down.

● Spoken like a true Leeds fan! First, Revie always preached loyalty and then did the most disloyal thing to the very players he'd preached to. England fans will dispute that Revie was successful (Leeds fans won't) — England lost

GOALLINES

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in Italy and then, thanks to a suicidal tactical formation, were fortunate to beat Finland 2-1 at Wembley. Revie's record with Leeds was superb, but as the national manager he was a disaster.

No Respect

I attended the game between Orient and Spurs on 11th August and there was a one-minute silence in respect of The O's assistant-manager Peter Angell, who tragically died recently.

All of the Orient fans and most of the Spurs followers observed the silence, but some Tottenham supporters insisted on chanting throughout the minute.

To me, this was disgusting.

GARY WHITTEN,
CHINGFORD.

● I agree, but you shouldn't be surprised. Too many fans have no respect for anything. Thankfully, they're in the minority, but they are the ones who do so much damage.

Credit to Tottenham for criticising their hooligan fans over the incident in their programme for the opening game of the season.

Kevin Surprised

WHILE reading through an old SHOOT dated 6th November, 1976, I noticed that Kevin Keegan expressed surprise when a French club offered £1,250,000 for Franz Beckenbauer. Now, almost three years later, it seems quite customary for a star player to cost a million or so.

I wonder how surprised Kevin would be if a club offered over a million for HIM now?

SIMON TROMON,
SOUTHBOURNE.



● I doubt if anyone would be at all surprised; if anyone is worth £1 million it's Keegan (above). And having seen Beckenbauer play for the Cosmos recently, even at 33 he is playing as well as ever and I reckon could go on until he's 38.

Cup King Hughes

SHOOT recently asked if there was a more consistent player than Ray Clemence. I doubt it, but his former Liverpool team-mate Emlyn Hughes (now Wolves) has quite a Cup record.

Since he joined Liverpool in 1967, Emlyn has appeared in 187 of their 188 Cup-ties — the odd one out being the U.E.F.A. Cup-tie against Real Sociedad at Anfield in 1975. This broke a sequence of 127 successive Cup games.

The F.A. Cup Semi-Final replay against Real Sociedad at Anfield in season was Crazy Horse's 100 consecutive Cup match AWAY from Anfield.

JOHN KIRK,
MILNROW.

● Wolves will be hoping Emlyn can inspire them to Cup glory just as he did Liverpool.

Supermac Missed

THE enforced retirement of Malcolm Macdonald through knee trouble is a severe blow to British football. Everyone will miss Supermac's explosive finishing — who else scores five goals for his country? Malcolm was a goal-machine and it would be great for soccer if he became a coach and taught youngsters some of his tricks. I wish him every success in whatever he does.

JIM RANKIN,
DUMBARTON.

● I'm sure Malcolm will still be involved in the game — as a coach, broadcaster . . . or even both.

IAN CALLAGHAN keeps fit for Swansea — at Anfield

IAN CALLAGHAN, ex-Liverpool and England, had a brilliant, success-studded career in his days at Anfield and last season carried on his winning ways when he moved to Swansea and helped the Welsh club to promotion. But the non-stop midfielder man is not prepared to rest on his laurels.

Says Ian: "After Liverpool, I wondered whether the game could still have much to offer. Then with Swansea, I found I was enjoying playing, and training, as much as ever — and this is important to me. If ever I found, for example, that I didn't get any pleasure from training, I would pack in football immediately."

Callaghan's energy and endurance were well-known qualities at Anfield, and today he continues to be as fit as ever the year round.

He spent last summer in Australia and the previous close-season in the United States, and agrees with the view of his former Liverpool boss, Bob Paisley, that regular football is a benefit to players around the age of 30 or over.

"Too long a lay-off for a mature player can make it harder for him to recapture top form on his return to competitive League soccer," explains Ian.

"It is up to every player to keep in peak shape, otherwise he is only hurting himself, which is why I

train conscientiously at Liverpool.

"Regards training, our manager at Swansea, John Toshack, has been very fair to me, as he must have done a lot of thinking on the subject before deciding to allow me to keep on training at Anfield after my transfer."

But Toshack's faith in his former Liverpool colleague has been well justified, with Swansea finishing third in the Third Division last season, and planning to make a resounding impact in Division Two in 1979-80.

'Easier'

"I believe we can figure among the challengers," says Callaghan. "I sampled Second Division football with Liverpool, and although that was back in the 60's when they won promotion, I feel that it's easier for a Third Division side to adjust to the Second than it is for a team from the top flight."

"Take the case of Sunderland a couple of years ago. They were relegated from the First Division, and freely tipped to return to it by winning promotion in their opening season in the Second."

"But they found the hustling tactics of Division Two upsetting for a while, whereas Swansea's experience in the Third Division has made them able to cope with teams who try to bustle them out

of their stride.

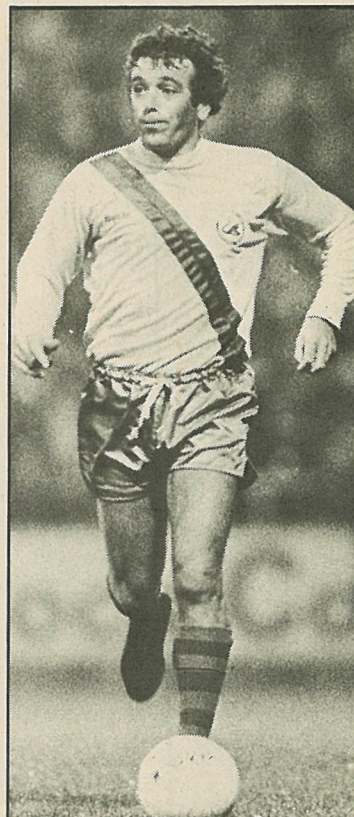
"Of course, the best soccer is played in the First Division, and the three teams relegated from it last season, Queens Park Rangers, Birmingham and Chelsea, could be promotion-challengers if they settle down quickly."

"Sunderland, too, after coming so close to going up in May, are a club that must come into the reckoning, not forgetting Swansea. Our attacking play, especially at home in 1978-79, was very impressive, with Alan Curtis (who has since moved to Leeds United), Robbie James and John Toshack doing good work up-front."

Callaghan's praise of the Swansea attack last term is confirmed by the fact that the Welsh club scored 57 League goals at Vetch Field in their successful promotion bid, which made them the top-scoring team on their own ground in the four Divisions.

This season, Ian is not making any predictions about how many goals Swansea will score in the higher class or where they will finish. But he sums up: "No team is a cut-and-dried certainty to finish in the leading three positions — the race is wide open and Swansea mean to take part in it."

"And what a great start we had in beating Shrewsbury in our first League game this season."





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West Ham

FULL NAME: Philip Parkes
BIRTHPLACE: Sedgley, West Midlands
BIRTHDATE: 8th August, 1950
HEIGHT: 6ft 2½ins
WEIGHT: 14st 7lbs
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Walsall and Queens Park Rangers
MARRIED: Yes
CHILDREN: Marie, five; and Scott three
CAR: Capri 2.0S
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Former Scotland star Denis Law
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: My former club Queens Park Rangers
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Alex Dawson (ex-Man. United and Preston)
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Cologne away in the U.E.F.A. Cup in 1975-76
BIGGEST THRILL: Playing for England
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Being runners-up in the League with Q.P.R. in 1975-76
BEST COUNTRY VISITED: Jamaica
FAVOURITE FOOD: Boeuf stroganoff
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Working on my house, I'm keen on D.I.Y.
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Cleaning the car and gardening
FAVOURITE T.V. SHOWS: Any documentaries
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Johnny Mathis, Rita Coolidge and the Bee Gees
FAVOURITE ACTORS/ACTRESS: Clint Eastwood, Donald Sutherland and Felicity Kendall
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My old landlady, Mrs Parvin. She kept me in order when I was a young player at Rangers. Without her I could have easily hated London and all that goes with it
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Travelling and pre-season training
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: One Under-21, six Under-23's and one full cap for England
PERSONAL AMBITION: To be happy when I retire
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To be successful with West Ham United
IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE? A carpenter or a woodwork teacher, a job for which I'm qualified
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Singer Johnny Mathis and the income tax inspector on a dark night

Phil Parkes



SHOOT!



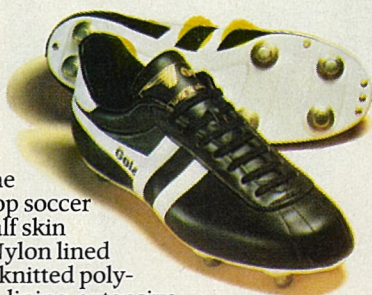
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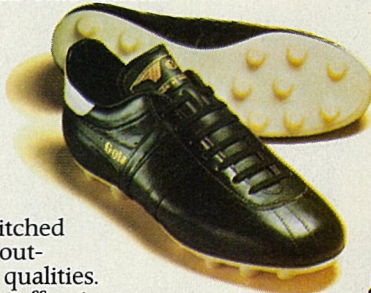
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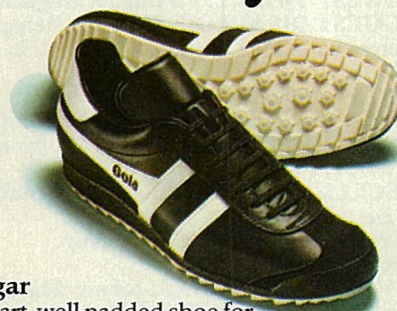


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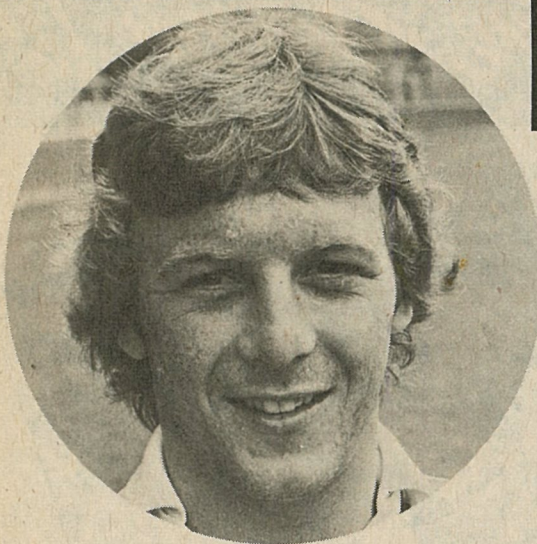


BIG MATCH

CROSSTALK

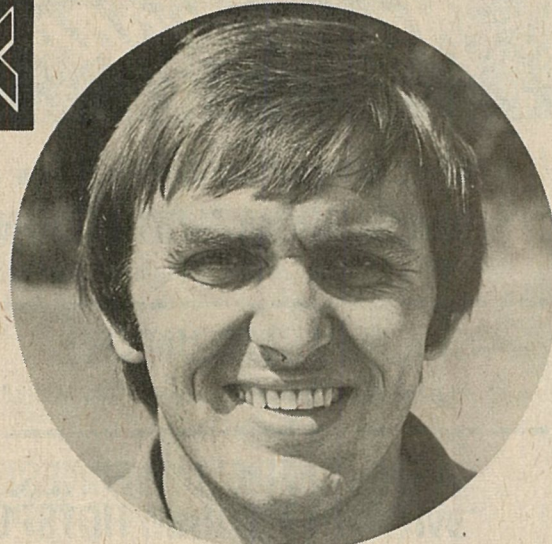
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at Goodison Park on
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'It's about time we took some of the limelight from Liverpool'

— ANDY KING (Everton)



'We're desperate to prove ourselves the top team in Birmingham again'

— JIMMY RIMMER (Aston Villa)

KING: I hope you're still with Villa! With all the talk about transferred players between our two sides, I've been expecting half your players to end up at Goodison and half ours to go to Villa Park.

RIMMER: Yes, it's been a hectic few weeks at both our clubs. It's always unsettling when players want to leave, especially star players like Andy Gray and Bob Latchford. But if a player wants to go, there isn't really any point in a club hanging on to him as far as I can see.

KING: Well, I'm still at Everton and I'll be looking for my usual goal against Villa. They are a side I enjoy playing against and for some reason, I always shine.

RIMMER: We like Everton, too, especially early in the season because there is bound to be a big crowd who appreciate good football. The atmosphere should be great. We are desperately keen to do well in 1979-80, and prove ourselves the top team in Birmingham again. West Brom took that title last season and you'd understand about inter-city rivalry with that other team you've got up there.

KING: Only too well, I'm afraid. In fact, it's a lot worse for us. West Brom didn't actually win anything last season but Liverpool won the Championship yet again and they've been collecting trophies right, left and centre in recent years and it is about time we took some of the limelight away from Anfield.

RIMMER: We'll still be looking out for you as a potential Championship side because Everton are one of the established clubs — like Villa — and they always think big and are prepared to do whatever is necessary to get success. We had unbelievable bad luck with injuries last season. I think we used 28 players in the first team — and I was the only

ever-present in the side. So it's not surprising we didn't do as well as we'd been hoping.

KING: We were in with a real chance until Christmas, but fell away alarmingly in the second-half of the season and things went sour in the summer with all the talk of transfers and unhappy players. It's a shame because I thought, with a couple of additions to the side that finished last term, we would have been in with a shout in 1979-80. I'm still optimistic, of course — I think you have to be in this game.

RIMMER: I couldn't agree more. If

you don't go out believing you've got a chance of winning everything in sight, you may as well not bother to play the game. Our players and fans expect to do well, just as I'm sure yours do at Everton.

KING: I'm looking forward to another good tussle with Dennis Mortimer. We always seem to have a battle in the middle of the park. I like playing Villa because I rate them as a fair, honest team. There are no cheats in the side. Just hard-working, straightforward players.

RIMMER: I'm very friendly with Brian Kidd, so I'll be looking out for him. Mind you, you wouldn't think so when we get close to each other in a game. We always seem to be getting in each other's way in the box and end up in a collision. I wouldn't mind but Brian comes off best most times. But we'll still be pals after the match.

KING: I was surprised Villa sold John Gregory to Brighton because I rated him very highly. I like little Gordon Cowans, too — he's a talented player.

RIMMER: It would be nice if we could both be in the Championship running this season. I know everyone seems to think it's a two horse race between Liverpool and Forest, and some say it's who will finish behind Liverpool. But I don't see it like that and I fancy Crystal Palace to be the real dark horses. Everyone in the game has respect for them because of Terry Venables and they've got a lot of talented young players.

KING: Yes, I like the look of Palace, but it will depend on how their youngsters adjust to the First Division. If they find their feet quickly, they could be an exciting team. But I'm afraid I don't fancy the other two promoted sides very much.

RIMMER: Stoke's players have been there before, of course, which must be a great help. But unfortunately, they don't get the crowds. Palace will be well supported — we had a three game series against them in the Cup last season and had good gates for all of them. Brighton will do well for crowds, too.

KING: I'm sure there will be a good turnout for the Everton-Villa clash. I'm expecting as close a game as last term's which ended 1-1.

RIMMER: I hope so — our games against Everton usually are.



One of Everton's troubled stars — Bob Latchford (left, playing against Villa last season)

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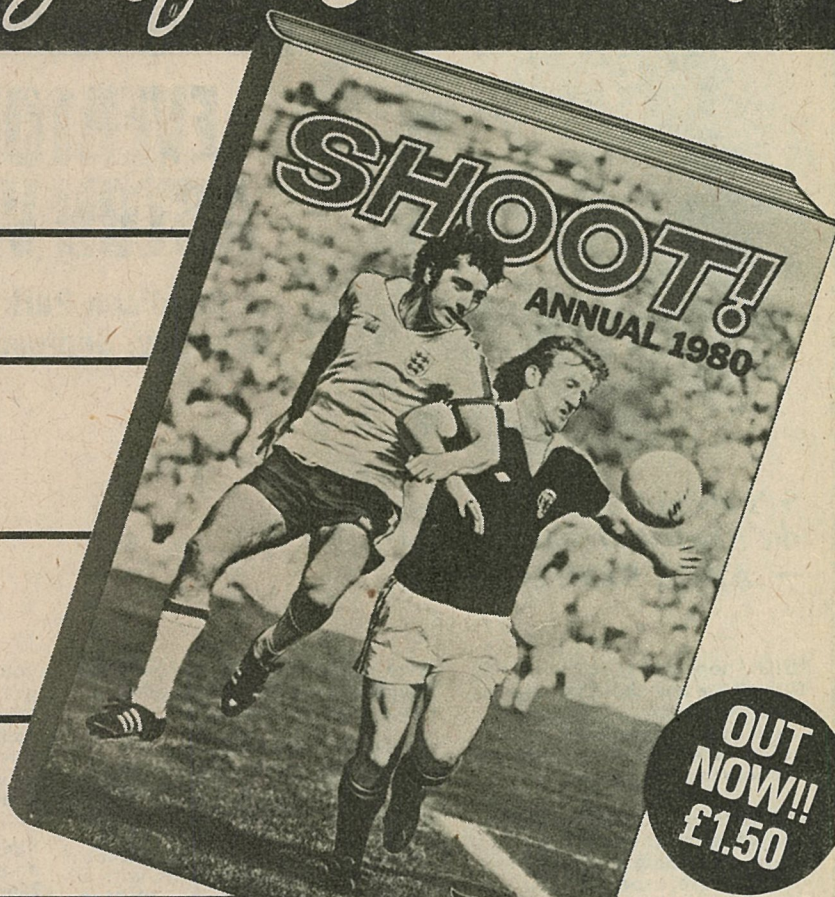
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INTER

INTER-AJAX

'Our first Cup success — and failure of the season'

WHEN I look around the Ibrox dressing-room these days I feel like an old man! Honestly, manager John Greig said he would be giving youth its chance and he is certainly backing up those words.

John MacDonald has come into the team and his talent is immense. He played a couple of games at the end of last season, and in his first Old Firm League clash on August 18th scored a goal in our 2-2 draw. He'll be a success... no doubt about it.

John Greig will not rush him, though. That could do the boy more harm than good and the boss fully understands this.

'SuperMac' picked up his first medal even before the official kick-off to the term when he scored a brilliant opener in our Drybrough Cup Final victory over Celtic at Hampden.

The youngster played superbly that day as we won 3-1. Actually any one of our three goals could have won a 'Goal of the Season' award. Even Celtic fans must agree with me here.

MacDonald netted the first after working a neat one-two with Davie Cooper and gliding into the open space. He remained cool, drew 'keeper Peter Latchford and then slipped it into the net. Magnificent!

I thought that was a great effort, but Sandy Jardine popped-up with another in the unbelievable bracket. Sandy actually halted a Celtic raid on his own 18 yard line before going off on a solo run.



He must have beat about five Celtic players as he powered forward over the halfway line. He just kept on going and from about 25 yards he sent a left foot shot sizzling away from Latchford for the second. What a goal!

You couldn't have blamed the Celtic boys for feeling demoralised after those two superb efforts, but worse was to follow for them.

Cheeky

Davie Cooper — I'm certain he is going to be a huge hit this season — played some football rarely seen in this country when he lobbed the ball over two Celtic defenders in cheeky style and then blasted number three behind Latchford.

I make no apologies for dwelling on those goals. Any club in the world would be proud to score three such goals in a season, but to get them all in one game is a remarkable feat.

The following day, though, we were all brought back to earth when we played newly-promoted Kilmarnock in the Tennent-Caledonian Cup Final at Ibrox. We were winning 2-0 with only four minutes

left... but eventually lost on penalty-kicks.

We were playing our third match in three days — we had beaten West Ham 3-2 on the Friday night in the same tourney — and we were struggling. I'm not taking anything away from Kilmarnock, though.

They kept on fighting and won the trophy 5-4. Davie Cooper was our penalty-kick culprit. To be fair, Davie did send goalkeeper Alan McCulloch the wrong way, but the Killie lad stuck out a foot and deflected the ball away. It was a remarkable save and our chance of saving the game went when George Maxwell hammered his effort past a helpless Peter McCloy.

That's football, I suppose. Actually, Kilmarnock's success in this trophy must be one for the history books. When last did a club lift a Cup without winning any matches in the tournament?

In Kilmarnock's first match in the four team competition they played Brighton and drew 1-1 before winning 6-5 in the penalty shoot-out. Then, of course, they were 'spot on' against us. They must do an awful lot of penalty practise at Rugby Park. It's certainly paying off, isn't it?

Football being the weird and wonderful game it is, saw Kilmarnock going out of another trophy the following week without losing a game! They drew 1-1 with Dundee at Dens Park in the Anglo/Scottish Cup and then were held 3-3 at Rugby Park in the return leg. Dun-

dee went through on the away goals counting double rule!

That's all for this week. Keep cheering your favourite team and I'll see you all in a fortnight when I'll be taking you behind the scenes at Ibrox...

**TARTAN TALK FROM
CELTIC'S DANNY
McGRAIN NEXT WEEK**



Sandy Jardine (right) and John MacDonald (left, centre) both scored superb goals for Rangers against Celtic in the Drybrough Cup Final.



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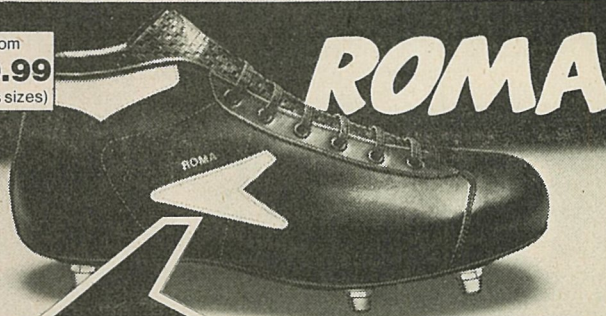
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Albert Johannesson

Can you tell me anything about former
Leeds winger Albert Johannesson?

NICHOLAS SMITH,
SHEFFIELD.

Well, first of all, Nicholas, Albert was a bit of a "novelty" — arriving about ten years before his time.

For he was coloured — a soccer refugee who had to flee his native South Africa in order to get a fair chance to prove his worth — and playing over here when, unlike today, such a player was a real rarity.

But he had skill, and his adopted country in general — and Leeds in particular — gave him the opportunity to use it.

Unlike the likes of Viv Anderson, born here, he never had the chance of making the international grade — but he played at Wembley, alongside Bremner & Co., for the Leeds side beaten 2-1 by Liverpool in the 1965 F.A. Cup Final.

He ended his League career at York, before fading from the soccer scene.

Goals Conceded

Which club has conceded the most goals in a single season in any Division of the Football League?

DAVID BALL,
PRESTON.

That dubious record is held by Darwen, David. They conceded 141 goals in Division Two back in 1898-99 — and the clubs only played 34 games in those days!

Darwen's full dismal record that season was — Played 34; Won 2; Drew 5; Lost 27; Goals-for 22; Goals-against 141; Points 9.

They were not re-elected — and have never played in the League since.

Worst-ever Division One tally is the 125 goals conceded by Blackpool in 1930-31, and the 121 by Ipswich in 1963-64 — both in 42 games.

Sheff. Utd. v. Bolton

I've got an old programme for a Third Round F.A. Cup-tie between Sheffield United and Bolton, and would like to know the result.

DONALD BURNS,
EDINBURGH

Eventually... it was 3-1 to Sheffield United, Donald!

I say that because that was right in the "Big Freeze" winter — even worse than the last one — and this tie was postponed no less than 14 times before it could be played.

Even then, it wasn't the most-postponed — Lincoln v. Coventry, and Birmingham v. Bury, each suffered 15 write-offs before they could be played.

In fact, that round — the longest in Cup history — started on 5th January (when only three of the 32 ties could be played) and wasn't completed until 11th March.

First for Spurs?

Please settle a friendly argument as to whether or not Ardiles and Villa are the first foreign players Spurs have signed?

B. J. TEBBUTT,
ENFIELD

In terms of high-powered modern soccer, the answer is "Yes".

But there was a German player named Seeburg who was on the books of five League clubs including Spurs — the others being Chelsea, Burnley, Grimsby, and Reading — between 1907 and the outbreak of World War One against his country in 1914.

Final Attendances

Can you tell me the highest, and lowest, attendance for a World Cup Final?

JONATHAN MASON,
SWANSEA.

Although it wasn't strictly speaking a Final — but a deciding game in a final group which, that one year, amounted to the same thing — the highest, Jonathan, was the 199,854 spectators who paid to see Uruguay beat host-nation Brazil 2-1 in Rio de Janeiro in 1950.

The lowest Final gate was the 45,000 who saw Italy beat Hungary 4-2 in Paris in 1938.

SHORT PASSES

Newcastle have played in a record 11 F.A. Cup Finals — winning in 1910, 1924, 1932, 1951, 1952 and 1955; and losing in 1905, 1906, 1908, 1911 and 1974.

(STEVE JOHNSON, BFPO 21)

Four English clubs have played in a European Cup Final — Man Utd winning in 1968; Leeds losing in 1975; Liverpool winning in 1977 and 1978; and Forest winning in 1979.

(CHRISTOPHER SPOSITO,
Manchester)

Most goals scored for a single club in the Football League or Scottish League is 397 — by Jimmy McGrory for Celtic between 1922 and 1938.

(PAUL GREENING,
Gloucestershire)

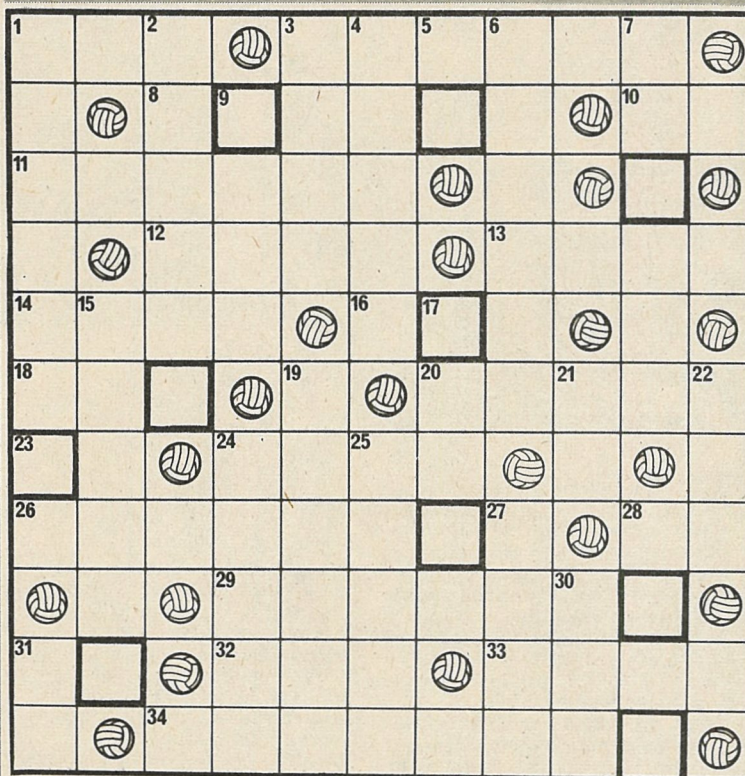
Millwall have never played in the First Division — though they missed promotion there by only one point in 1971-72.

(DAVID PRATT, Leicester)

Our Expert would like to point out that although all letters are read, he can only reply to published questions because of shortage of time.

Go for the Double

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of a Leeds United player. Answers on page 50.



ACROSS:—

- (1) — Anderson, Nottingham Forest defender.
- (3) P---t---k T-i-tle. Furniture from the missing letters.
- (8) The shape of a soccer pitch, for example.
- (10) Mike -h-mas of Manchester United.
- (11) One of those by which a team can be recognised!
- (12) Throws high in the air
- (13) Kennington —, venue of many earlier F.A. Cup Finals.
- (14) Gary —, West Bromwich Albion midfielder player.
- (16) -dg-- Street (Hereford United).
- (18) — Kennedy of Liverpool.
- (20) Slopes.
- (23) Steve Gr---t of Charlton.
- (24) A-h-t-n --te (Bristol City). Pudding ingredient from the omissions.
- (26) Bill —, Middlesbrough striker.
- (28) The S---gs (Mansfield Town). The missing letters reversed.
- (29) Speech.
- (31) -ai - Munro of St. Mirren.
- (32) Joe J---an (Manchester United). Bar from the omissions.
- (33) ---estfiel- Stadium (Gillingham). "Fall" from the missing letters.
- (34) Old film, perhaps, of soccer information at a particular time.

DOWN:—

- (1) Ground of Stoke City.
- (2) Ball kicked hard whilst still in the air.
- (3) Body of persons associated for activities such as soccer (for example).
- (4) Wolve--ampt-n Wander-r-. Animal from the missing letters.
- (5) Alan H---sen of Liverpool.
- (6) Refuse to take notice of.
- (7) Injure by over-exertion, etc.
- (9) Thing to be thankful for.
- (15) Dave —, Werder Bremen defender.
- (17) Up in the air!
- (19) — Road, ground of Norwich City.
- (21) Dunc-n -cKenzie of Blackburn.
- (22) Somer--- Park, home of Ayr.
- (24) Twenty goals, perhaps!
- (25) Incites by annoyance.
- (27) Take four letters from United to make "water movement".
- (28) P----moor (Torquay United). "11 Across" from the omissions.
- (30) Nottingham F---st.
- (31) The C---izens from Maine Road.

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Hopes...aims...

FIRST DIVISION

JOHN RICHARDS
(Wolves)

'I want to score 20 goals'

MY big hope for Wolves is that we can carry on this season where we left off in 1978-79, when John Barnwell and Richie Barker were getting us organised and we were going more on to the attack.

Earlier, to win our fight against relegation, we had been concentrating on defence, reckoning on the important thing then was to prevent conceding goals.

And regarding our defence this season, the fact Emlyn Hughes is with us means we should be steadier at the back.

Emlyn is a defender who leads by example, as Mike Bailey used to do for us, and I expect he will have the same influence as Mike.

Last season, I was out of the side for a long spell, though I'm glad to say I was able to return in February and scored nine goals between then and the end of 1978-79 after recovering from injury.

Few injuries

This season I have set a goals target of at least 20 which I consider is the least a recognised striker should aim at — and I'm hoping that not only myself, but the rest of the team, are not troubled too much with injuries.

Most clubs wish they had bigger playing pools, more strength in depth in the event of players receiving knocks, though Liverpool may be the only club satisfied with the number of players available.

However, at Molineux I feel confident that the struggling time we had at the wrong end of the table is behind us, and this season will find us in the top half of the First Division.

In our two years since promotion we've been looking for the right blend — perhaps we'll find it in 1979-80.

My personal ambition is to play a part in helping Wolves win a

trophy, League or Cup. It is six years since we lifted the League Cup, and before then it had been 15 years since the club enjoyed success. So after going through so many seasons with little to show for them, I don't think there could be a better year than 1980 for Wolves to shine again.

And if I can be in the side I'll be more than satisfied.

About England — every player has the wish to play for his country and I am no exception. At present, though, Ron Greenwood appears to have settled on his squad.

The game is not too healthy in England at the moment, because clubs seem to be like lemmings — bent on self-destruction. Some appear to be heading for bankruptcy by paying out huge sums for players.

It is a ludicrous situation. As a remedy, I suggest the transfer fees of more than £150,000 should be paid in cash — for lower amounts, hire purchase.

Not that I subscribe to the view that money can buy success, as have been proved by Manchester City for example. And I don't believe the present number of clubs at the top in the First Division will always retain their position.

There are invariably dark horses to be found among clubs — three years ago, nobody thought Nottingham Forest would be where they are today, and West Brom are another example of a side that has emerged in a big way recently. I think the spread of attacking football will continue, and that fans in this country will enjoy the season, especially with England promising to qualify for the European Championship Finals.

SECOND DIVISION

MIKE DOCHERTY
(Sunderland)

'Summer signings have made us stronger'

IF Sunderland can do well in their early games this season, in contrast to the previous two, and collect ten out of the first 12 or 14 points, I believe they can make another strong promotion bid.

Our manager Ken Knighton signed Bryan Robson from West Ham and Yugoslavia's Bozo Bokato during the summer, and these two players will bring our playing pool up to 19, putting Sunderland into a stronger position to cope with injuries or suspension, which can be crippling to a team lacking cover up-front or in defence.

We'll need all the strength we can get for the promotion battle, and I anticipate West Ham and Watford to be up there among the leaders.

Queens Park Rangers, Birmingham and Chelsea, the three clubs relegated from Division One will face the problems common to teams who drop into the Second Division — everybody will be out to beat them.

About my personal hopes and ambitions for this season I can simply say that I will be happy to carry on as Sunderland's captain and lead a winning team. In the past, I've operated in midfield and in the back-four but my present position in midfield is the one that suits me best.

As an aggressive type of player I

get more opportunities to express myself here, as I am able to push forward in attack and also drop back and help out in defence when necessary.

As skipper, I feel I am involved in the thick of things and enjoy the constant movement and struggle to keep Sunderland on top in this vital section of the field.

In earlier years I had to fight against injury which threatened my career, and I now look forward to staying 100 per cent fit in order to help the club achieve success.

Concerning the state of football in general I think it is in a very healthy condition, even though the dominance of Liverpool and the top half dozen or so at the top is liable to become more pronounced.

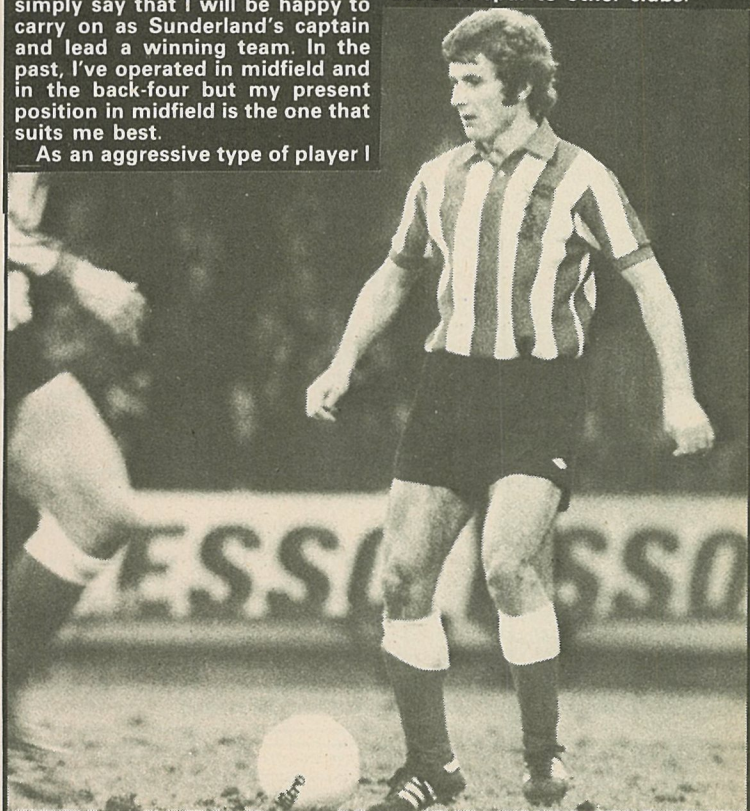
Exorbitant

I don't know whether or not West Brom can maintain their position, though their manager, Ron Atkinson is bound to disagree. Liverpool, Manchester United, Manchester City, Nottingham Forest, Arsenal and Leeds are able to afford big fees for players and although some fees for ordinary players are exorbitant a manager is entitled to pay out large sums if he considers it necessary.

It is a matter of his judgment being involved, and he must be prepared to accept the consequences, good or bad.

The uncertainty of football is one of the attractions and it will always have a hold on the public.

I consider the exploits, and success of leading First Division clubs such as Liverpool and Forest, can act as a spur to other clubs.



and ambitions for 1979-80

THIRD DIVISION



TREVOR SWINBURNE (Carlisle)

'Referees could be more consistent'

I'll be very disappointed if Carlisle don't finish in the top three this season. Some poor results late on killed our hopes of promotion last term, when we ended up in sixth place, but we are out to improve on this.

I certainly don't think it will be easy though especially with the sort of competition in the Third.

Gillingham and Swindon are two clubs who come into my reckoning as possible promotion candidates, but there could be others of unknown quality — Blackburn are one of them, because it is difficult to assess how they will perform in a different Division.

Confident

This applies to Sheffield United and Millwall, also relegated from the Second Division, plus the newly-promoted clubs from Division Four but I'm confident Carlisle will do well against all of them.

Our manager, Bobby Moncur, advises us to attack at home and away, believing it to be the best form of defence. We have found, too, we are inclined to get edgy when playing defensively and are better when going forward.

Off the field we are a club that is helped financially by the good work achieved by our Supporters Development Association which is essential to the club — if Carlisle can also do good work on the field, I'll be happy.

When I first arrived at Brunton Park, the team was having trouble in settling down in the Third Division following relegation and our

type of game was apt to be affected by robust opposition.

Now we can take care of that sort of problem by still playing good football and with a little consistency we should be right up among the leaders.

My personal ambition is to be with a Carlisle side playing Second Division football — I believe improving my own game as much as possible, and have received plenty of good advice from Allan Ross.

Allan's previous long experience as a goalkeeper with Carlisle enabled him to evaluate my performances, and on Monday after the Saturday match, we often discuss everything that went on during the 90 minutes, with Allan giving me important tips.

Last season I was thrilled to be voted the Outstanding Player by readers of the local sports paper, and also by the sporting Press in the area.

I think referees could be more consistent. Some refs use the whistle for the most trivial offences, others allow the really serious fouls to go unchecked which can cause confusion.

On the question of having a lay-off through bad weather in the winter, I'm all for the season staying as it is, with teams playing right through from August to May — and I say this even though there were games last term when the cold was my biggest problem.

When a goalkeeper is not in action for long spells on an icy pitch there is no way he can keep warm and on such occasions he can be caught out when he is suddenly put under pressure. But having said all this, I don't think we have many winters as bad as the last one.

Concerning the game in general, I would like to see promising players like Kenny Sansom given longer runs in the England team.

FOURTH DIVISION

KEITH COLEMAN (Darlington)

'No more re-election problems'

MAKING a forecast about how a team will perform during a season is never easy, but I am confident about one thing — and that is that Darlington will finish much higher in the League than their fourth from bottom of last term.

Our manager, Billy Elliott is the type who will sort out problems existing at Feethams, and all ready has increased the playing pool to 18, with a squad of 20 as the eventual target — ideal to deal with the heavy programme that lies ahead of us.

We also have a good coach, Jimmy Shoulder in charge of the lads, who can be depended upon to get the best out of them.

This season will be the first I have spent in the Fourth and from my limited experience of it I would say it would include teams who can play good football, but along with that goes a certain amount of robust and physical play.

One week before the League programme got under way, Darlington beat Bradford on their own ground 2-0 in the League Cup, and our display convinced me that we have sound potential.

As our season includes 46 League games, there is a long way to go, yet at this early stage I'm willing to predict that Newport will be making a strong promotion bid this season and from my knowledge of the Darlington side I'll also tip us to be up among the leaders.

Our programme of matches means we'll be playing twice a week, and if this winter is anything like the last one very heavy demands are going to be made on

every team in the Fourth Division. But everybody at Darlington is geared for a big effort — we are determined that there will be no re-election problems at the end of the term.

My own immediate, personal ambition is to do well for Darlington, and if possible to help them win promotion. As a defender, I am happiest at right or left-back, though with Darlington it may be that I'll sometimes be selected for a midfield spot.

Wherever I'm played, I'll do my best for the club and look forward to enjoying my career with them — though in any player's career there is usually the odd disappointment or two.

With me, the biggest occurred in my spell with West Ham, when we lost to Anderlecht in the 1976 European Cup-Winners' Cup Final. However, that memory will be offset if Darlington can finish in the top four in 1979-80.

Healthy

Compared to countries abroad, I think that football in England is in a very healthy state. I played in Belgium, where First Division attendances were only 7,000 to 8,000 on average and between 3,000 and 4,000 in the Second.

But I do believe transfer fees are excessive in this country and would fix a ceiling of £500,000 on any transfer.

Attendances control the game and a club like Bristol City for example, who are capable of good football, simply can't compete with leading clubs for top players.

About dealing with vandalism at grounds, there appears to be no answer — now it is creeping into cricket. On the positive side, countries such as Argentina and Holland played the sort of attacking football in the last World Cup which should encourage the present swing away from defensive soccer and plenty of goals were scored last term.

Lastly, I think the close-season is just long enough though First Division players who go on tours may differ.



TAKE A BREAK—IT'S Quiz Time

1. Shortly after buying Tony Currie, Queens Park Rangers manager Tommy Docherty returned to one of his former clubs and signed which midfield player for around £200,000?

2. Welsh international Terry Yorath (right) was transferred from Coventry City recently. (a) Which club has he joined for £300,000 and (b) who is the new captain at Highfield Road?

3. Allan Hunter Chris Nicholl or John McAlle recently turned down a move to Bristol City?

4. Norwich City rejected a reported £1 million plus bid by Manchester City for which player?

5. Celtic and Rangers both kicked-off this season in the Premier Division with victories . . . which clubs did they beat respectively?

6. Plymouth Argyle defender Colin Clarke, given a free transfer, has joined Bath City, Kettering Town or Wealdstone as player-manager?



7. Where did Wales (right, dark strip) finish in last season's British Championship?

8. Can you name the coach, and his club, who quit recently after 16 years and became number two at Stoke City?

9. Why didn't Champions Liverpool kick-off the new campaign on August 18th at Wolves?

10. Which club holds the record of the biggest Championship-winning margin for any Division of the Football League of 15 points — gained in 1973-74 in the Second Division?

LEAGUE CUP

The League Cup First Round was played recently. Can you answer the following questions?

11. Last season's League Cup Semi-Finalists Watford, surprisingly went out at the first hurdle. Which club eliminated them 3-2 on aggregate?

12. Another Second Division club to bite the dust were Leicester City. Did Rotherham beat them 3-1, 4-1 or 5-1 overall?

13. (a) David Chard, (b) Roy Carter, (c) Howard Kendall and (d) Fred Binney scored League Cup goals . . . which clubs do they play for?

14. Millwall went down 4-3 on aggregate to Northampton. Which player missed a penalty for The Lions in the first-leg when they lost 2-1?

15. How was the Barnsley against Lincoln City clash decided?



ANSWERS:

1. David McCreery of Manchester United. 2. (a) Tottenham, (b) Tommy Hutchison. 3. Hunter. 4. Kevin Reeves. 5. Celtic beat Morton 3-2 and Rangers won 3-1 at Hibs. 6. Kettering. 7. Second. 8. Ipswich's Cyril Lea. 9. Ground improvements weren't completed in time. 10. Middlesbrough. 11. Colchester. 12. 5-1. 13. (a) Peterborough, (b) Swindon, (c) Blackburn, (d) Plymouth. 14. John Lyons. 15. Penalties.

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DOWN: — (1) Victoria. (2) Volley. (3) Club. (4) Horse. (5) An. (6) Ignore. (7) Strain. (9) Boon. (15) Watson (17) Aloft. (19) Carrow. (21) Am. (22) Set. (24) Score. (25) Goads. (27) Tide. (28) Anil. (30) Ore. (31) It.

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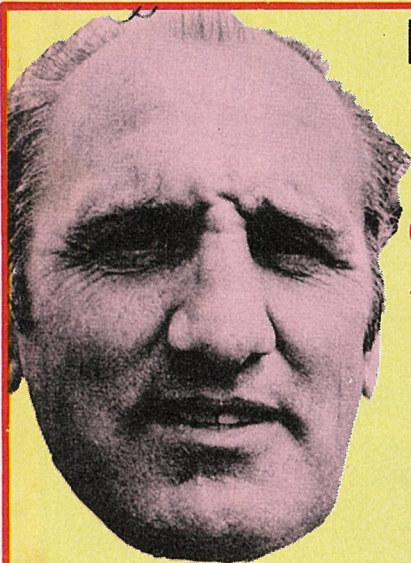
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European Cup	Nottm Forest	n/a	11.15	11.55	13.65	14.50	Scottish L'gue	Glasgow Celtic	8.55	9.25	9.90	12.10	13.40
European Cup							N.A.S.L. Super						
Winners Cup	Barcelona	10.85	11.30	11.70	13.55	14.20	League	New York Cosmos	n/a	12.35	13.25	15.95	15.95
UEFA Cup	Borussia						Spanish Cup	Real Madrid	9.95	10.20	10.40	12.10	12.50
	Munchen G'bach	11.05	11.30	11.50	13.15	13.50							
English F.A.	Arsenal (H)	8.55	8.90	9.95	12.00	12.35							
Scottish Cup	Glasgow R'gers	9.25	9.80	10.75	13.05	13.55							

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The Nelson touch can put Charlton back on course

UNINFORMED football fans could be led to believe that Andy Nelson's days as manager of Charlton Athletic are numbered.

The South London club just managed to escape the trap-door leading to the Third Division at the end of last season and made a disastrous start to the 1979-80 campaign by crashing out of the League Cup First Round to Peterborough and being hammered 3-0 at home by Preston on August 18.

But it would be bad judgment indeed to attach much weight to the apparent clamour for Nelson's head.

The throbbing chant "Nelson out, Nelson out . . ." is in full swing again

at The Valley this season, yet in reality the anti-Nelson faction represents only a minority of Charlton's following.

Most fans, and the club's board of directors and players, are right behind the genial Charlton boss's regime.

Nelson, typically, looks upon the slight hiccup philosophically. "They pay their money at the gate and are entitled to express their opinion. Unfortunately, it puts more pressure on the team than on me."

Dispelled

Any fear that the anti-Nelson chorus has support behind the scenes in the players dressing-room is dispelled by Lawrie Madden, newly-appointed captain in succession to Keith Peacock, who was given a free transfer by the club at the end of last season and decided to finish his career playing for Columbia, Ohio, in

the American Soccer League.

"They can say what they like," says Madden, "but the hardcore following of this club is right behind Andy Nelson."

"Every club goes through its bad patches. We are no exception to that. Birmingham had a terrible time last season and fans were calling for the resignation of officials. They survived and so shall we."

"But, generally, these people are in a minority — and that is certainly the case here."

Pessimism has no part of the set-up at 'new-look' Happy Valley.

Charlton have spent £300,000 on ground improvements, including a luxurious 3,500-seater cantilever stand, and a further £220,000 on new players, Phil Walker the exciting former Millwall midfielder player, and Nicky Johns, brought back from the States to protect the Charlton goal this season.

The club are also confident that they have shored-up one of the most suspect defences in British football. Phil Warman has recovered from injury and will be pressing for a regular left-back spot this season, and Les Berry, Lawrie Madden, Peter Shaw, Dave Shipperley and David Campbell will all be competing for places in the Charlton rearguard.

Burden

Mike Flanagan's departure to Crystal Palace has also helped to ease the club's burden despite the farewell of one of the most dangerous strikers in the country.

"It gives Martin Robinson and Derek Hales an opportunity to strike-up a partnership that could blossom this season," says Madden. "Injury and the problems of last season made it difficult for them, but Robinson managed to score 18 goals and Hales is a proven goalscorer."

Charlton are strengthened further by the return of Colin Powell, their fast moving winger, who went to New England Tea Men but has been transferred back to The Valley for £30,000.

Nelson is confident that Charlton can bridge the gap between the Second and First Divisions. They have not played in the top sphere for many years but with ground improvements, a catchment area that stretches from South London deep into the heart of Kent and Surrey, and Nelson at the helm, Charlton are confident they can rid the club of the "Boo Boys" and replace it with a Hallelujah choir.

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BACK ROW (left to right): Leroy Ambrose, Tony Booth, Jeff Wood, Alan Dugdale, Gary Churchouse.
 MIDDLE ROW: Harry Cripps (trainer), Dick Tydeman, Peter Shaw, Steve Gritt, David Campbell, Les Berry, David Shipperley, Andy Nelson (manager).
 FRONT ROW: Martin Robinson, Derek Hales, Lawrie Madden, Phil Walker, Phil Warman.

CHARLTON

SHOOT!